FBIS DAILY REPORT

CONTENTS

Middle East & North Africa

Vol V No 235

5 December 1979

INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

Yamani Walks Out of OAPEC Meeting Over Iran Issue A 1
Session Ends A 1
UAE Oil Minister on Meeting A 2
OPEC Strategy Committee Chairman on Dhahran Meeting A 3
Saudi Commentary Examines OPEC's Influence, Power A 5
PLO's 'Arafat Receives Iranian Delegation [VOP] A 6
'Arafat Visit to France Reportedly Canceled A 6
VOP Reports on 3 Dec Explosion in Ashqelon A 6

ARABIAN PENINSULA

KUWAIT

Oil Minister Returns From OPEC Strategy Meeting in Dhahran C 1
Minister Denies Gulf Foreign Ministers Plan Meeting C 1

PDRY

YAR Presidential Adviser Ends Visit 3 Dec C 1
Text of Friendship, Cooperation Treaty With Ethiopia C 2

QATAR

Oil Minister: No Change in Oil Production Level C 5

SAUDI ARABIA

Further Developments in Al-Haram Incident C 5
Fahd Says Sedition "Eliminated" C 5
No Foreign State Involved C 5
Mahdi Killed C 7
Commentary, Reaction to Al-Haram Incident C 8
Foreign Media, TASS Assailed [AR-RIYAD 25 Nov] C 8
U.S. Reportage Analyzed ["UKAZ 26 Nov] C 9
Leaders Confer on Implications [Kuwait AL-WATAN 27 Nov] C 10
Riyadh Radio on Arab, Islamic Reaction to World Events C 11
Venezuelan Energy Minister Arrives for Talks C 12
Meets Yamani C 12
Tunisian Foreign Minister Arrives 1 Dec C 12
Ends Visit C 12

UAE

AL-FAJR Reports on Deal for Naval Weapons C 12

YAR

San'a' Comments on Ending of 'Unhealthy Factors' C 13
Prime Minister Returns From Britain 1 Dec C 14
Government Expels MENA Correspondent in San'a' C 14
President Salih Discusses Security in Gulf Region C 14

BRIEFS:

PDRY Radio Transmitter C 14

EGYPT

Prime Minister Khalil Meets Minister of State Ghali D 1
UNEF General Coordination Arrives in Cairo D 1
Salim Leaves for Nigeria With As-Sadat Letter D 1
New Military Operations Chief Appointed D 1

IRAQ

'Arafat Reportedly Prevents Invasion of Gulf Islands E 1
Baghdad in Kurdish Comments on Iranian Constitution E 1
Iraqi Islamic Group To Hold Protest March 4 Dec E 1

JORDAN

King Husayn Sends Congratulations to Saudi King F 1
Amman Radio Comments on Implications of Mecca Mosque Incident F 1
Prime Minister Receives PLO's Abu Sittah [AD-DUSTER 2 Dec] F 2

LEBANON

Muslims Involved in Mecca Mosque Takeover Arrive in Beirut G 1
Prime Minister Receives Iranian Council Spokesman G 1
Iranian Volunteers [VOL] G 1
Foreign Ministry Seeks Clarification [VOL] G 2
Haddad Warns Against Cooperation G 2
'Free Lebanese' Call on Sarkis To Send Army to South G 2

SYRIA

Ba'th Leader Receives Cypriot EDEK Official H 1
TISHRIN on Syrian Position on Iranian Revolution H 1
ATH-THAWRAH Reaffirms Support for Iranian Revolution H 2

NORTH AFRICA

ALGERIA

U.S. Military Move Against Iran 'Not Unlikely' I 1
Algiers Reports on OAU Session in Monrovia I 1

LIBYA

Jallud Receives Mauritanian Prime Minister I 2
Prime Minister Departs I 3
Ugandan Interior Minister Ends Visit I 3
Petroleum Minister Calls for Oil Price Rise at Caracas I 3

MOROCCO

Hassan Explains Absence at Monrovia Meeting on Sahara I 4
Prime Minister Bouabid Receives PLO Leader I 5
Foreign Minister Leaves for London Conference I 5

TUNISIA

Fitouri Delivers Message to Saudi King Khalid I 6
TAP Outlines Tunisian-Yugoslav Relations I 6
Talks Begin in Tunis I 7

ISRAEL

Ash-Shak'ah Released; Expulsion Order Canceled N 1
DAVAR on Failure of Likud Policy in West Bank N 1
[4 Dec]
Weizman Studying Transfer of Military Posts to Civilians N 3
[HA'ARETZ 4 Dec]
Further Details on Elon More Situation Reported N 4
HA'ARETZ on Future of Coalition Without Agudat Yisra'el N 5
[4 Dec]
Egyptian Army Reportedly Clearing Sinai Minefields N 5
[HA'ARETZ 3 Dec]

IRAN

3 December Developments Concerning U.S. Embassy R 1
March to Iraqi Embassy R 1
Accusation of Jews R 1
4 December Developments Concerning U.S. Embassy R 2
Spokesman on OPEC Meeting R 2
Report on Envoy Recall R 2
3 Ambassadors Recalled R 3
8 Hostages 'Singled Out' R 3
'Divisions' Within Revolution Council R 3
AFP Report R 3
'Official Communique' on Hostages R 4
Student Statement No 58 R 4
Student Statement No 59 R 5
Kennedy's Statement on Shah R 5
Embassies Urge Hostages' Release R 6
ASH-SHAHID Reviews Situation R 6
'Mediator' Reports Hostages 'Removal' R 8
[Vienna KURIER 4 Dec]
5 December Developments Concerning U.S. Embassy R 8
Mo'infar on Caracas Conference R 8
Hostages To Be Tried R 9
Stake in European Plant Frozen R 10
Council To Be Terminated R 10
Call To Arms Reiterated R 11
Comment on Yamani's Walkout R 11
Bazargan on Army Discipline R 11
Comment on UN Resolution R 12
NVOI Reviews Security Council Events, Quotes Kennedy R 12

Referendum Figures Released for Tehran, Suburbs R 14
Further Report on Referendum R 14
Referendum Results R 15
BAMDAD Reports on Negotiations With Kurds [XINHUA] R 15
Telecommunications Tower Attack R 16
Withdrawal Deadline R 16
Qotbzadeh Favors Friendly Ties With Japan R 16
3 Iraqi Citizens Reportedly Cross Border, Defect R 17
Antirevolutionary Papers Reported Published in Europe R 17
[ETTELA'AT 25 Nov]
Political Groups Explain Criticisms of Constitution R 17
[BAMDAD 28 Nov]
Purge of ETTELA'AT Staff To Be Conducted [KEYHAN 28 Nov] R 19
Islamic Republican Party Spokesman Interviewed R 19
[Beirut AS-SAFIR 30 Nov]
Paper Cites Reasons for Bani Sadr Replacement R 20
[London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 30 Nov]
Ayatollah Khalkhali on Possible 'Pardon' of Spies R 21
[Madrid YA]
Bani Sadr Sees U.S. 'Prepared To Sacrifice Hostages' R 23
[Paris L'HUMANITE 1 Dec]
Student Leader Discusses Shah Leaving U.S. R 23
[Paris LE MONDE 1 Dec]
Delegation in Paris Urges U.S. 'Change of Attitude' R 25
[Milan L'UNITA 1 Dec]
Embassy Affair Reportedly Linked to Referendum R 26
Council of Experts Member Views Situation, Shah Issue R 27
[London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 3 Dec]

SOUTH ASIA

AFGHANISTAN

Amin Tells Ministers To Tolerate Criticism S 1
Wali Chairs 3 Dec Economic Council Session S 2

BANGLADESH

Border Dispute With India Continues S 2
Firing on 3 December S 2
High Level Meeting S 2
Immediate Talks Proposed S 2
High Court Acts on Challenge to Mushtaque Conviction S 3

INDIA

Charan Singh Opens Atomic Energy Conference S 3
IAEA Director Addresses Conference S 4
Reports of Nepalese Being Driven From Assam 'Distorted' S 4

PAKISTAN

President Speaks of Future Leadership, Reforms, Censorship S 5
Haq: Islam Forbids Protest Through Destructive Means S 6
Further Comments S 7

SRI LANKA

Government Petition to OPEC Decries Price Increase S 7

YAMANI WALKS OUT OF APEC MEETING OVER IRAN ISSUE

NC041546 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 4 Dec 79 NC

[Text] The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has walked out of the OAPEC ministerial conference in Kuwait. According to conference sources, the Saudi decision to withdraw from the conference followed a proposal submitted by Syria and Libya urging support for Iran in its dispute with the United States. The same sources said that Saudi Oil Minister Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani protested against this proposal on the grounds that OAPEC is an economic, not a political, organization.

The sources also confirm that the other Arab delegations attending the conference supported the Saudi position. They add that Saudi Arabia's withdrawal could mean a premature end to the conference.

Meanwhile, UAE Oil and Mineral Resources Minister Dr Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah said it was unlikely that the OPEC conference, scheduled to be held in Caracas on 17 December, would agree on oil prices for next year. He said that it was more likely that the conference might come out with some rules in this respect.

Session Ends

LD041814 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 4 Dec 79 LD

[Text] The OAPEC Ministerial Council this evening concluded its meetings in Kuwait. It issued the following press release:

The OAPEC Ministerial Council held its 23d session on 4 December, 1979, with the Libyan oil secretary, 'Izz ad-Din al-Mabruk, in the chair. The Ministerial Council discussed the articles on the agenda and acquainted itself with the efforts being made to start the Arab oil training institute [ma'had an-naft al-'arabi liltadrib] and approved its budget for 1980. It also discussed the steps being taken in the refinining industry in the member states.

Among the most important topics the council considered was following up the results of the first Arab energy conference. It gave its blessings to the efforts being exerted in order to establish energy committees in each country. It agreed to link together the Arab oil conference and the Arab energy conference. It also approved the measures being taken to hold the joint symposium with Italy and the south European states.

The council agreed that the General Secretariat should carry out the study of the economic and technical advantages of the project of the Arab company for engineering consultations and designs [ash-sharikah al-'arabiyah lilistisharat al-handasiyah wa at-tasamim]. It also approved in principle the projects of carbon black synthetic rubber. It decided to refer them to the Arab company for oil investments to complete the sutdy of the economic advantage of the two projects in collaboration with the OAPEC General Secretariat.

The council endorsed the formulae proposed to amend certain articles of the agreement on the formation of the Arab oil services company [ash-sharikah al-'arabiyah lilkhadamat al-betroliyah].

It also acquainted itself with a report on the sixth training symposium for the principles of the oil and gas industry as well as another report on the Oxford energy symposium.

The council approved the draft budget of OAPEC for 1980.

UAE Oil Minister on Meeting

JN041519 Doha QNA in Arabic 1325 GMT 4 Dec 79 JN

[Text] Kuwait, 4 Dec--UAE Petroleum and Natural Resources Minister Dr Mani' ibn Sa'id al-'Utaybah has expressed the belief that it will be difficult for the OPEC ministerial meeting, which is scheduled to be held in Caracas on 12 December, to reach an agreement on unifying oil prices for the coming year.

In an exclusive statement to the QNA correspondent in Kuwait, made upon his arrival here today to attend the meetings of the OAPEC Ministerial Council, Al-'Utaybah added that it was more likely that the coming OPEC meeting would arrive at several bases in this regard.

The UAE minister said he expected the issue of raising oil prices to cause a lot of controversy during the Caracas conference. However, Al-'Utaybah said that his country is not ready to agree to a high rise in oil prices, as this would harm the international economic situation and lead to negative results that would affect us all.

Concerning his opinion on the way to eliminate the world free spot market and on the possibility of reaching a unified price, Al-'Utaybah said that a unified price can be reached if buyers stop purchasing oil at prices in excess of official prices and if sellers stop selling oil at prices exceeding OPEC prices.

Concerning the possibility of reaching an agreement on one basis for oil prices, Al-'Utaybah said that this is possible if the countries that raised their oil prices agree to decrease them considerably. The UAE minister expressed his country's readiness to meet these countries halfway, since there would be several bases for oil prices otherwise.

Concerning reports that have been circulated lately on the U.S. request that the deficit that resulted from stopping Iranian oil exports to the United States be covered, Al-'Utaybah said that the United States has not requested that the UAE supply it with additional oil, adding that his country has limited the average for next year's oil production. Al-'Utaybah pointed out that this limit was imposed as a result of technical studies undertaken to prevent any damage to the oilfields, which were exploited by foreign oil companies, leading to signs of exhaustion in these fields.

Al-'Utaybah pointed out that we have to put a limit to this increase in production and follow a program aimed at dealing with the situation, by making it possible to produce oil during coming decades without harming oil reserves.

Concerning whether an OAPEC state has called for inclusion of the Iranian-U.S. crisis issue on the OAPEC agenda, Dr al-'Utaybah said that OAPEC does not specialize in political affairs; rather, it discusses oil cooperation among the member states, particularly commercial cooperation, joint projects, the exchange of expertise and promotion of specialized industries.

OPEC STRATEGY COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN ON DHAHRAN MEETING

LD0319[illegible]44 Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1557 GMT 3 Dec 79 LD

[Text] Dhahran--Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani, the minister of petroleum and mineral resources, has announced that the OPEC Strategic Committee, during its 2-day meeting in Dhahran, discussed the report submitted by the committee of specialists, which included senior specialists in oil affairs, and has decided to continue its meetings in Caracas following the OPEC conference which will be held this month in Venezuela.

The minister, in a press conference today following the conclusion of the work of the committee under his chairmanship, said that the report of the committee of experts was connected with one topic; namely, developing a long term strategic plan for OPEC.

The minister pointed out that the committee of experts had spent 1 and 1/2 years in the preparation of its report and had sought the assistance of the most experienced bodies in the world and of senior specialists in the oil industry and oil economy because the matter is important, serious and links the many varied interests for all countries of the world.

Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani mentioned that the strategic plan for OPEC in general can be summed up in three main points: 1. The price structure and the long term pricing method; 2. The relation of the OPEC countries to the developing countries and the various means which can be adopted to assist these countries in facing energy problems in the future in addition to their other economic problems; 3. The relation of the OPEC countries to the various industrial countries.

The minister said that these three major points include many varied aspects--financial, economic, technical and political--but noted, however, that these aspects revolve around the main three points. The minister of petroleum and mineral resources stressed that no recommendation was made at the meetings of the OPEC Strategic Committee in Dhahran and that no recommendations were expected to be issued after the Caracas meeting.

Shaykh Yamani added, however, that it is possible that another meeting will be held after the Caracas meeting unless the committee is able to conclude all its work at this meeting. In any event, a final recommendation will be submitted to the OPEC Ministerial Council that it hold an extraordinary meeting in order for the organization to discuss the strategy.

He said that we will begin in various stages to decide on the strategy plan, which may require many future meetings of the petroleum ministers. They may be joined by the foreign ministers of the OPEC member countries. The minister explained that the matter may require holding a meeting at a very high level.

Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani answered a question about attempts to bring the industrial countries and the oil exporting countries closer by saying that this dialog was one of the basic points contained in the OPEC strategy plan and that this topic also included our relations with the developing countries.

The minister stressed that the kingdom played the major role from the start regarding the topic of dialog between the north and the south. It was the state which proposed to the United Nations that a Paris conference be held. France had cooperated with the kingdom and adopted the idea.

He explained that the Paris conference did not succeed sufficiently and that there are attempts to resolve this impasse and enter a new path with the benefit of past mistakes and by using means which will lead to holding a constructive dialog between the industrial countries and the OPEC countries in a manner which will benefit many of the objectives of OPEC and the developing countries.

In response to a question on oil prices, Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani said that OPEC does not control these prices. The causes for higher oil prices exist in the Western countries. The main cause for such high prices is that some states pay such prices for oil. He denied the existence of the two-tier oil price system; he said that there are different groups of prices. He added that he did not expect the forthcoming OPEC conference to establish one price for oil since this requires a long time until the oil situation is stabilized.

Replying to a question in connection with the continued deterioration of the value of the dollar and the possibility of replacing it with another currency, his excellency said: This point was discussed by the Strategic Committee. It is a not a new point for OPEC. He pointed out that OPEC had used the dollar in the past and that it used gold before the dollar. It then used a basket of currency and returned to the dollar and later decided to obtain special drawing rights, but did not implement the decision for specific reasons raised by some member states. He added that the question of a basket of currencies might be the one decision to be adopted by the OPEC strategic plan; or OPEC might adopt it before the plan; or it might continue with the dollar, but the matter does not concern the oil price as much as it does the protection of the member states from currency fluctuations.

Shaykh Yamani stressed his confidence in the future of OPEC adding that the organization gets stronger as long as there is a shortage of oil and as long as countries of the world need it; it is OPEC's source of strength. He added: Those who in the past dreamed that they would smash OPEC now realize that such a dream cannot come true.

Replying to a question about propaganda campaigns against OPEC by some news agencies which seek to mislead Arab public opinion, he said that these tendentious campaigns will continue as long as information in general is owned and controlled by Western states whose interests conflict with and are contrary to those of OPEC. These campaigns, he added, cannot be halted unless Arab and OPEC information becomes stronger to such a degree that it enables us to present facts to world public opinion.

Regarding the establishment of an OPEC news agency, Shakyh Yamani said that setting up news agencies is not an easy task and that it involves a lot more than finance; more and deeper than just finance.

With regard to taking possession of the Japanese company and ARAMCO, Shaykh Yamani explained that the question of taking possession of the Japanese company has not yet been raised. As for ARAMCO, possession of the company took place in 1976, that is, all of its financial and administrative affairs are being run on the basis that the state has complete possession of this asset. He added that formal measures for this possession have not yet been completed for different reasons--as long as we control and possess it from the financial and practical viewpoints.

SAUDI COMMENTARY EXAMINES OPEC'S INFLUENCE, POWER

LD021815 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 2 Dec 79 LD

[Hashim Abduh Rashim commentary]

[Text] Is it true that the future of this world is to a large extent governed by oil resolutions? Is it true that OPEC member countries alone hold the key to happiness for mankind and at the same time hold the ax which might destroy man's civilization? Is it true that concern and confusion afflicting the oil markets at present and affecting the world money markets, as well as the strongest of the world currencies, are the automatic by-product of the policy of raising prices and reducing production?

These are some of the questions being disseminated by circles opposed to OPEC which are motivated to counteract OPEC's continued undertaking of its mission not only to its member countries and peoples but also the entire human society and for the sake or the creation of a balance between various forces and the avoidance of all forms of monopoly and domination of various sources of health.

Every time the OPEC member countries meet they watch the course charted by various wars with their diverse objectives directed against their efforts to protect their own interests, to maintain a distance from international conflicts, free their economies from all forms of guardianship, control or guidance and isolate their numerous resources from the fever of international competition.

Fortunately, despite the huge efforts which are exerted and which continue to be exerted with a view to plotting against the safety of OPEC, weaken its cohesion and detract from its capabilities, the member countries are still keen to thwart these plots by continuing to work sincerely for the consolidation and unification of their efforts to insure the adoption of unified stands, which leave no room for other forces to exploit any rifts or benefit from any differences of opinion, particularly over prices.

OPEC member countries have constantly risen to the level of responsibility and have succeeded thus far in insuring the adoption of decisions and resolutions most compatible with the interests of their peoples, which safeguard their political stands and consolidate their causes the most. OPEC has constantly made the point that its stands should satisfy a reasonable measure of international interests, future ambitions and objective calculations under its plans and programs for future generations.

It was only natural that there would be covert acts against this purely national course, because the opportunities for exploitation, monopolization and sapping of the revene from these resources continues to diminish owing to the constant planning of oil policies within the organization and through the network of relations linking it with the various parties, companies and quarters which deal with it.

It was only natural also for the OPEC member countries to review their plans and decisions constantly in the light of rapidly changing world conditions in a manner which does not conflict with their basic stands and their strategy or enabling all world peoples to benefit from the available wealth according to a fair equation between those who possess oil and those who possess modern technology.

PLO'S 'ARAFAT RECEIVES IRANIAN DELEGATION

JN050645 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 0530 GMT 5 Dec 79 JN

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar, PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, has received the Iranian revolution delegation led by Dr Mohammad 'Ali Hadi. The delegation is made up of Hojjatollah Hani Modarresi and Mohammad Salih al-Hoseyn.

The talks were attended on the Palestinian side by PLO Executive Committee members brothers Mohammad Zuhdi an-Nashashibi and Hamid Abu Sittah; Fatah Central Committee members brothers Abu Iyad and Abu [illegible] [Khalil al-Wazir] and brother Sa'id Sayil, head of central operations.

During the 2 and 1/2 hour meeting, the discussion focused on a review of the general situation in the area, particularly the U.S. threats and the imperialist military concentrations against the Iranian revolution.

Brother Abu 'Ammar reiterated to the Iranian delegation the Palestinian revolution's principled and firm position in support of the heroic Iranian Revolution and its leader Ayatollah Khomeyni. Brother Abu 'Ammar said: The two revolutions have the same fate. We in the Palestinian revolution place all our people's and revolution's capabilities at the disposal of the Iranian people's revolution. We consider the U.S. threats as directed against the Palestinian revolution.

The Iranian delegation had lunch with brother Abu 'Ammar. An atmosphere of friendship and cordiality prevailed over the talks. Brother Abu 'Ammar asked the delegation to convey his greetings to Ayatollah Khomeyni and to the courageous Iranian people.

'ARAFAT VISIT TO FRANCE REPORTEDLY CANCELED

LD041214 Paris Domestic Service in French 1100 GMT 4 Dec 79 LD

[Text] It is reported that Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, will not now visit France. The visit is said to have been canceled at the French Government's request.

VOP REPORTS ON 3 DEC EXPLOSION IN ASHQELON

JN041114 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 0530 GMT 4 Dec 79 JN

[Text] Yesterday afternoon, our revolutionaries operating in the interior detonated explosive charges in the central market in occupied Ashqelon. An undetermined number of the enemy were wounded and heavy material damage was inflicted on the shops in the market.

The area was cordoned off by a large number of Zionist policemen and border guards, who began to comb the area as a precaution against other unexploded charges. The Zionist security forces arrested many Palestinians, on the pretext that they were involved in the operation. Our revolutionaries returned safely to base.

KUWAIT

OIL MINISTER RETURNS FROM OPEC STRATEGY MEETING IN DHAHRAN

LD031300 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1210 GMT 3 Dec 79 LD

[Text] Kuwait, 3 December--Kuwaiti Oil Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah as-Sabah returned home today from Dhahran after attending the OPEC ministerial meeting which was held to consider a future strategy for the organization. The minister declined to make any statement.

The committee's meetings lasted 2 days and were attended by the oil ministers of Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Iran and Venezuela, as well as Kuwait. The Algerian energy minister, who is also a member of the committee which was formed last year, did not attend. No reason has yet been given for his absence.

The committee considered a common strategy for OPEC in the next 10 years and will report to the OPEC ministerial conference in Venezuela on 17 December. No details are yet known about the report, but Venezuelan Energy Minister Humberto Calderon Berti intimated that one part of the report covers relations between oil-producing and oil-exporting countries and the industrial countries importing oil.

MINISTER DENIES GULF FOREIGN MINISTERS PLAN MEETING

LD041026 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0720 GMT 4 Dec 79 LD

[Text] Kuwait--Kuwait, through the minister of state for cabinet affairs, 'Abd al-Aziz Husayn, in press statements today denied that the Gulf countries constitute any specific political bloc or axis. Husayn also denied press reports about the intentions of the Gulf states to hold shortly a conference at the foreign ministers level to draw up a joint security strategy. In statements published by the AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM and AL-ANBA'. He described the Lebanese press reports about North Yemen's reservation about joining the alliance proposed to it by the Gulf states "as being mere rejected conjectures; we do not know where these papers get them." Husayn said "Yemen is not a Gulf country. Also, such a topic was not submitted at either the Tunis Arab summit last month or to the countries of the region."

He added there were those who want to "portray" the contacts among the Gulf countries as constituting a bloc or a political axis and "naturally we reject this and do not accept it." He said that there were "almost permanent" contacts among Gulf states aimed at coordination in various spheres and that what had been reported about a coming meeting of the foreign ministers of these countries "is not in the cards at present."

PDRY

YAR PRESIDENTIAL ADVISER ENDS VISIT 3 DEC

LD031554 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 3 Dec 79 LD/EA

[Text] Brother Lt Col Husayn ad-Daf'i, member of the Consultative Council, adviser on unity affairs to the brother president of the northern part of the homeland and leader of the delegation of the northern part of the homeland to the celebrations of the southern part of the homeland [12th anniversary celebrations], left Aden this morning.

He was seen off at Aden international airport by the following brothers: Col Salih Muslih Qasim, member of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee; Lt Col Ahmad Salim Ubayd, member of the YSP Central Committee, deputy minister of defense and director of the Political Department; 'Abdallah Ahmad Ghanim, secretary of the Supreme People's Council Presidium; and a number of brother officials.

Before leaving Aden international airport, brother Lt Col Husayn ad-Daf'i told the ADEN NEWS AGENCY that he and his delegation were pleased to have been able to share with their brothers in the southern part of the homeland the celebrations of the 12th anniversary of national independence. He and his delegation were also pleased to have been able to visit the Fifth Governorate and witness the military maneuvers in which live ammunition was used. He hailed the heroic role of the armed forces, saying: We have seen that the armed forces of the southern part of the homeland have the fighting capacity to defend every inch of Yemeni territory.

Brother Lt Col Husayn ad-Daf'i said in his statement that during his visit he had met brother 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee and chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium; the results of this meeting were fruitful and important. Agreement had been reached on the timetable to start the meetings of the unity committees. He explained that the first meeting of the unity committees would take place in San'a' next January, between the two constitutional committees of the two parts of the homeland.

Concluding his statement, he said he had also met the brother members of the YSP Political Bureau, with whom he had discussed all issues relevant to the two parts of the homeland.

TEXT OF FRIENDSHIP, COOPERATION TREATY WITH ETHIOPIA

LD032110 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1720 GMT 3 Dec 79 LD/EA

["Text" of friendship and cooperation treaty between the PDRY and socialist Ethiopia]

[Text] In view of the warm and close relations and historic ties between their two peoples and countries; their common experience and destiny; their faith in the need to constantly strengthen friendship and cooperation between the PDRY and socialist Ethiopia in the interests of the two countries; the need to serve the development of peaceful relations among states and to strengthen international peace and cooperation; their determination to maintain and develop the economic and social gains of the peoples of their two countries; their determination to promote the incessant struggle against imperialism, colonialism, neocolonialism, expansionism, apartheid and racism in all their forms and manifestations and to support the peoples struggling for freedom, independence and social progress; their determination to preserve the Indian Ocean and the Red Sea as zones of peace; their desire for a just and durable peace in the Middle East; and their (?adherence) to the principles and objectives of the UN Charter, including respect for sovereignty, national independence, territorial integrity and noninterference in the internal affairs of other countries, the PDRY and socialist Ethiopia have decided to conclude a friendship and cooperation treaty.

Article 1: The two sovereign contracting parties undertake to develop the close friendship and cooperation between the PDRY and socialist Ethiopia on the basis of the principles of equality, mutual benefit, mutual respect for sovereignty, national independence and territorial integrity and noninterference in the internal affairs of the other.
Article 2: The two sovereign contracting parties will cooperate closely and comprehensively to protect the economic and social gains of their two peoples and sovereignty over natural resources.
Article 3: The two sovereign contracting parties will work to entrench and expand mutual economic, scientific, technical and trade cooperation in the interests of the two peoples and countries. They will develop and deepen mutual cooperation in the fields of industry, agriculture, communications, the training of cadres and in other economic fields.
Article 4: The two sovereign contracting parties will work to develop and consolidate mutual cooperation and exchange of experience in the fields of science, culture, the arts, literature, education, health, journalism, broadcasting, television, cinema, tourism and sports with the aid of deepening their people's common understanding of their life, work, experience and achievements.
Article 5: The two sovereign contracting parties agree to enter into trade agreements on a most favored nation basis.
Article 6: The two sovereign contracting parties will mutually cooperate in the military field, each to assure the defensive capability of the other.
Article 7: The two sovereign contracting parties will continue their efforts to strengthen the unity of the nonalined movement and to apply its principles to promote international detente and world peace and friendship and cooperation among peoples and to back the struggle against imperialism, colonialism, neocolonialism, expansionism, apartheid and racism in all their forms and manifestations.

Socialist Ethiopia respects the peace-loving foreign policy pursued by the PDRY based on the principles of internationalist solidarity and peaceful coexistence, aimed at strengthening Arab solidarity and opposed to imperialism, colonialism, neocolonialism, expansionism and racism in all their forms and manifestations.

The PDRY respects the peace-loving foreign policy pursued by socialist Ethiopia, which accords with the goals and principles of the OAU Charter and constitutes an important factor in the development of international cooperation and peaceful coexistence.

Article 8: The two sovereign contracting parties will continue their active and peaceful efforts to preserve the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace and to maintain the freedom of shipping in the Red Sea.
Article 9: The two sovereign contracting parties will continue their efforts to develop and strengthen the relations of peace and cooperation among all the Red Sea littoral countries.
Article 10: The two sovereign contracting parties will consult on important international issues directly relevant to the interests of their two countries.
Article 11: The two sovereign contracting parties will continue their active efforts to find a just and durable peace in the Middle East.

Article 12: The two sovereign contracting parties will continue their efforts to maintain international peace and security and to deepen international detente. They will contribute positively to the solidarity and growth of the nonalined movement. They will contribute energetically to the issue of general and comprehensive disarmament, including nuclear disarmament under effective international surveillance.

[Passage indistinct] and for the sake of complete destruction of colonialism, neocolonialsim, apartheid and racism in all their forms and manifestations and for the sake of full application of the UN declaration to grant independence to the colonized countries and peoples.

Article 14: The two sovereign contracting parties will continue their efforts to bring about the establishment of a new international economic order founded on the principles of equality, justice, democracy and sovereignty over natural resources.

Article 15: Each of the two sovereign contracting parties declares officially that it will not enter into military alliances or other alliances; it will not join any blocs of states or engage in any actions or measures directed against the other sovereign contracting side.

Article 16: The two sovereign contracting parties declare that the provisions of this treaty do not contradict their undertakings under the international agreements in force. They undertake not to conclude any international agreements contradicting this treaty.

Article 17: Any issues which may arise between the two sovereign contracting parties as to the interpretation or application of any provisions of this treaty shall be solved bilaterally in the spirit of friendship, understanding and mutual respect.

Article 18: This treaty shall remain in force for a period of 15 years from the date it comes into effect and unless either of the sovereign contracting parties expresses its desire to end the treaty 6 months before its expiration the treaty shall remain in force for successive periods, each of which will not be longer than 5 years or until either of the sovereign contracting parties declares its intention to end it 6 months before the expiration of the 5-year period.

Article 19: This treaty requires ratification in conformity with constitutional measures in operation in the countries of the two sovereign contracting parties. The treaty becomes effective when the instruments of ratification are exchanged, which will take place in Addis Ababa.

This treaty has been prepared in two [as heard] copies, each in Arabic, Amharic and English, each of equal applicability.

Signed on behalf of the PDRY by 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee and chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council of the PDRY.

Signed on behalf of socialist Ethiopia by Mengistu Haile Mariam, chairman of the Provisional Military Administrative Council, chairman of the Council of Ministers and commander in chief of the Revolutionary Army of socialist Ethiopia.

QATAR

OIL MINISTER: NO CHANGE IN OIL PRODUCTION LEVEL

JN041450 Doha QNA in Arabic 1400 GMT 4 Dec 79 JN

[Text] Kuwait, 4 December--Qatari Minister of Finance and Oil Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz ibn Khalifah Al Thani has declared that the state of Qatar has no intention whatever of either increasing or decreasing its oil production. He added that Qatar is committed to its daily oil production rate of 500,000 barrels. In a statement to Arab and world press correspondents, his excellency said that constant coordination and contacts are taking place among the OPEC Arab countries, in order to achieve a gradual increase in oil prices. He explained that Qatar believes that there should be a simple, gradual increase. Qatar, he added, is also against an excessive increase, due to its desire to avoid complications in the world economy.

The Qatari finance and oil minister expressed his conviction that the dollar is the best currency OPEC can use in oil transactions. He reaffirmed OPEC's eagerness to preserve the world economy. He said that OPEC bases its resolutions on wisdom and on plans that are thoroughly discussed. OPEC is eager not to harm the economy of Europe, the Arab countries and the Third World countries.

SAUDI ARABIA

FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS IN AL-HARAM INCIDENT

Fahd Says Sedition "Eliminated"

LD041854 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 4 Dec 79 LD

[Text] The Saudi crown prince and deputy prime minister, Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, this afternoon had a telephone conversation with his highness the amir. In it he advised him that full control had been established and everything was back to normal as the sedition, carried out by renegades against the pure Islamic faith, had been completely eliminated. The amir congratulated him on the efforts exerted by Saudi officials, headed by his brother King Khalid. He wished the fraternal Saudi people permanent stability and prosperity. May God keep the Muslims from the evils of sedition.

No Foreign State Involved

LD042150 Riyadh SNA in Arabic 2055 GMT 4 Dec 79 LD

[Text] Mecca--His royal highness the interior minister, Amir Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, has said that no foreign state had anything to do with the attack on the Holy Mosque. He said that investigations have started and it has become apparent that the organization of the attack was confined to the members of the gang.

Speaking at a press conference in Mecca this evening on the occasion of the ending of the attack and the cleansing of the Holy Mosque, the minister added that the attackers were armed and they were also supplied with arms. [as received] He said that they numbered about 200 persons or a few more. Referring to the fate of the so-called al-mahdi he said: "We believe he was killed and we have in our possession many casualties. We are trying to identify him among the casualties and the dead."

[Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic at 0800 GMT on 5 December in a report on the press conference herewith inserts the following: His royal highness mentioned that some of the aggressors' leaders were arrested and others killed. He added that the majority of them were Saudis and nationals of various other Islamic countries. His royal highness announced that there was no foreign state behind the affair. He went on to say that among the aggressors were Egyptians, North and South Yemenis, Pakistanis, Moroccans and Kuwaitis, and said: We may discover that other nationalities were involved as well. Concerning the resumption of prayers at the Holy Mosque his royal highness said that will take place as soon as cleansing and repairs have taken place]

Regarding future security measures at the Holy Mosque the minister said: "We wanted to be safe and open to everybody at all times. We shall see that there are security measures so that we can rest assured there will be no reason for future alarm."

Referring to the families of the martyrs, he said that they enjoyed the devotion of his majesty's government. "I congratulate them. They should be proud that their fathers fell as martyrs in the service of Islam. The world to come is better than this world. Those who die this death are lucky."

His highness said that there have been malicious rumors, the sources of which were unreliable, and they had been known to be hostile toward Islam and the Muslims. But the truth will (?come on top). What is required of our press is that it should be precise in reporting the truth. Muslims should be wary because they are a target. They should not be taken in by the good intentions which conceal evil intentions, and the Islamic states and peoples should cooperate to repel the danger to their countries and peoples.

There are foreign circles headed by Zionism and heresy which sense that the unity of Muslims is dangerous to them; they are wrong, because in the unity of Muslims and the spread of their faith there is stability for the world. The duty of Muslims is to cooperate among themselves.

His highness said that there are some events taking place in some Islamic countries, but these events are limited and Muslims should spread the true faith and true concept of Islam. Moreover, his highness said: We appreciate most fully the Arab and Islamic reactions at the official and popular level, and this reaffirms that the feeling of Muslims is one. It also confirms the stature of the Holy Mosque and this country--its leadership and people--in the world.

The minister announced that the number of the victims of the attack on the Holy Mosque was 60 martyred from among the various units of armed forces, and 200 casualties, because the attackers were firing intensely. [passage indistinct] About 75 of the attackers were killed and 170 taken prisoner. [figures as received] [passage indistinct]

At the beginning of his conference the interior minister congratulated the Saudi people on the ending of this treacherous aggression by his highness' and the crown prince's directives, taking care to insure the safety of the holy Ka'bah and to preserve the life of the innocent worshipers and visitors, and to protect our armed forces--the army, the guards and the security forces--and to capture the renegades alive. These objectives were realized.

The minister said that this incident and the attack by this group of renegades from Islam on the Grand Mosque and their intimidation of the worshippers and visitors at the [words indistinct] house is a [words indistinct] because if the believer cannot find security in the house of God, where else can he find it?

His Majesty King Khalid gave his orders to cleanse the mosque, on the morning of Tuesday, his royal highness the defense minister, Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, was present. I accompanied him and so did the amir of Mecca, Prince Fawwaz ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz. The tackling of the situation began. Joint forces from the National Guard and the security forces were summoned and they came here. Prince Sultan supervised the operation directly. We were working to implement the king's directives and those of the crown prince. The misled group opened fire from the mosque and (?outside) it. They killed innocent people, even ambulance men. We waited until sunset on Tuesday. We waited for the fatwah [word indistinct]. The king ordered us to restore security to the Holy Mosque. This is what made the task take all this time; it took nearly 2 weeks because we observed the four principles.

The tackling of the situation began immediately; all the (?participating) forces were summoned from our army. The National Guard and the security forces--all faithful to this homeland at the fore of which is the holy house of God. Add to this the difficult conditions of the building of the mosque and also our concern not to do harm to the holy Ka'bah.

[Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic at 0800 GMT on 5 December herewith adds the following: His royal highness the interior minister addressed his thanks to the Ministry of Health, the Red Cresecent, the secretariat of Mecca and the management of the electricity and telephone services as well as of other amenities. His royal highness also thanked the sons of Mecca who rendered help and aid to the security forces. He also thanked the Saudi people for their expressions of support and their participation in fighting the aggressors.

[His royal highness expressed the appreciation of the kingdom for the Arab and Islamic reactions on the official and popular levels. He adds: This confirms that the Muslims have one sentiment and affirms the position of the holy house and the place of this country's leadership and people, in the world.

[His royal highness congratulated the Saudi people on the end of the treacherous aggression on the Holy Mosque as the soldiers of God and Khalid ibn "Abd al-'Aziz were able, at the directive of his majesty the king and his royal highness the crown prince, to complete their task and bring about the objectives drawn up by the leadership to cleanse the holy house of God.]

Mahdi Killed

LD050950 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 5 Dec 79 LD

[Text] His Royal Highness Prince Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the interior minister, said in answer to a question by the SNA correspondent about the fate of Muhammad 'Abdallah al-Qahtani, who claimed to be the expected mahdi, that he was killed during the assult of the refuge of the misled clique in the vaults of the holy mosque. His royal highness added: His body was identified among the dead.

COMMENTARY, REACTION TO AL-HARAM INCIDENT

Foreign Media, TASS Assailed

LD301553 Riyadh AR-RIYAD in Arabic 25 Nov 79 p 1 LD

[Editorial: "The Mad Trumpets"]

[Text] The Western media with their radio, newspapers and television have found in the incident of the attack on Mecca's Al-Haram Mosque a wealth of material for lies and cheap intrigues against Islam and Muslims. It is as if the media had been awaiting this opportunity to give vent to their deep and long-standing malice and compete with one another in fabricating totally unfounded news.

The latest in the list of these biased news agencies is TASS, which the day before yesterday came out with a "fabrication" which the minister of information denied, drawing attention to the purpose behind it, namely to cause confusion and distortions both internally and externally.

It is recalled that TASS said nothing during the rapid development of recent events in the area, whether in the kingdom, the Gulf area or neighboring countries. This is not surprising since we know that the Soviet media are fond of fishing in troubled waters and playing with fire. Often, heedless of the consequences, they deliberately start a fire in which even some of their dearest friends get burned.

It is natural for this agency not to be pleased with the increasing denunciation which is daily being conveyed to the [Saudi] Government by various world quarters; everybody has been demanding maximum punishment for the criminals [who attacked the holy Al-Haram].

This news agency [TASS] did not carry a single news story on this subject and did not make a single comment on what has happened, thus ignoring everything while devoting itself exclusively to sowing sedition, confusing public opinion and obliterating the truth. But it will not be too long before the truth is revealed, matters are clarified and the criminals duly punished for what they have perpetrated against Islamic sanctities.

The campaigns are continuing and will not calm down. The trumpets have been persisting in their lies and misrepresentations and it appears that it is difficult for these trumpets to be silenced despite the daily statements which the Arab media put out. The Arab media are avoiding entering into a battle with these mad trumpets despite the fact that the latter will be the first to lose because in the final analysis fabricated lies cannot stand up to the truth.

Let these trumpets clamor and scream as they like; let them promote ignorance and isolation. We firmly believe that their tricks no longer fool the Arab citizen in general and the Saudi citizen in particular since all the masks behind which such parasites are hiding their faces have been torn away and because their campaigns will be opposed with greater vigor than they would expect.

Let these trumpets say whatever they like; they will never be able to touch the great edifice that becomes stronger every time they try to undermine it.

U.S. Reportage Analyzed

LD301421 Jidda 'UKAZ in Arabic 26 Nov 79 pp 1, 2, 3 LD

['Ali Hasan Shabakshi commentary: "The Incident"]

[Excerpts] It so happened that on Tuesday, 1/1/1400 [20 November], a clique of dissenters from the Islamic religion took advantage of dawn prayers and infiltrated the Holy Mosque carrying some weapons and ammunition. They then presented to the Muslims who were inside the mosque in Mecca for dawn prayers one of their members as the awaited messiah and called on them, under the threat of arms, to recognize him as such.

That was the official account of the incident as announced by the Interior Ministry at dawn on Wednesday, 2/1/1400, 20 hours after the incident had taken place. This statement was published only in the newspaper 'UKAZ.

The statement also contained a reference to the official reaction to the incident: "The authorities concerned have taken all measures to bring the situation under control and, on the basis of a religious ruling by all the ulema, have taken the necessary measures to safeguard the lives of the Muslims inside the mosque."

The entire world and the people of the country had nevertheless learned of the incident from two important sources before the official statement was issued:

On the international level: on Tuesday, 1/1/1400, a few hours after the incident had begun and before the official statement was issued, a spokesman for the U.S. White House announced a general description of the incident including some distorted information which led to inferences most of which have not been officially verified (so far).

On the local level: in view of the nature of the place and the circumstances, news of the incident began to spread among the citizens after a considerable number of worshipers had managed to escape from the clique, joined their families, relatives and friends and told them what had happened (with exaggeration).

To tell the truth, the delay in the Interior Ministry's announcement of the first statement was a precautionary measure required by usual security exigencies in such events. We could not ask more from the ministry because to have issued an official announcement as soon as the incident took place could have served the interests of other collaborating parties. Furthermore, any official statement should be based on facts, however few.

However, the question that remains without a clear answer is why did the U.S. White House announce the incident ahead of the Saudi Interior Ministry?

Admittedly--and this is a recognized and reciprocal procedure--the U.S. Embassy in Jidda has its own communications equipment enabling it to communicate the incident to the U.S. State Department (despite the fact that all radio and telephone communications between the kingdom and abroad were cut off for 20 hours).

Since good relations exist between the kingdom and the United States, the United States, in observance of this procedure, should have at least asked the permission of the local authorities concerned before announcing a local incident of this nature. Did it do so? Most likely it did not because the U.S. report contained unverified information. If it did not do so, why not?

We can picture three possible reasons for this:

1. The U.S. authorities could have considered the incident more serious than it really was and, therefore, they wanted to be the first to announce it. This is a weak possibility.

2. Since the announcement was made by the White House, the U.S. authorities could have seen it as an opportunity to create confusion at the Arab summit conference convening in Tunis, especially as the conference was discussing subjects on which the United States held different views from those of the conferees. This, too, is a weak possibility but stronger than the previous one.

3. The last possibility is that the announcement came at an appropriate time for the United States to cover up what some people regarded as failure to deal with the question of the hostages held in Iran. It is as if the United States wanted to say: We are not the only ones [who are in trouble], other countries are too, and among their own kinfolk. What makes this possibility stronger is that, in the view of some people, it had another objective because the U.S. announcement was followed by an explanation blaming Khomeyni's Iranians or Palestinian organizations for the incident. The aim behind this kind of provocation is too obvious to need analysis.

Leaders Confer on Implications

LD301327 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 27 Nov 79 p 2 LD

[Unattributed report: "A Summit of Gulf States Expected in Near Future; High-Level Security Delegations to Exchange Visits and Information"]

[Text] All the political circles in the Gulf Arab states are studying the reactions and repercussions on the whole political situation in the area in the light of recent events, particularly the momentous incident which has alarmed Muslims all over the world.

Gulf diplomatic sources have emphasized to AL-WATAN that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has informed the area's state leaders that it will present to them the complete dossier of investigation as soon as it has completed the legal and judicial measures it has begun to take against the group of dissenters from the Islamic religion, a large number of whom have surrendered to the Saudi security forces.

AL-WATAN has learned from its reliably informed sources that the king of Saudi Arabia has informed some of the area's state leaders that this clique of apostates has bases and is present in their countries and that they should be fully alert and vigilant in order to check this clique which is trying to disrupt security and stability through claims that have nothing to do with the true Islamic religion.

These sources asserted that an agreement has been reached among the leaders of the area's states to exchange security information and documents in order to control matters in an accurate, sound and precise manner. These sources also emphasized that the area's states have agreed on their security officials exchanging visits to work out unified security plans for keeping the area free from problems and disturbances and from the international conflict which is beginning to look in a disturbing manner.

These sources think it is likely that some official quarters will work to prepare for a high-level meeting of the leaders of the area states to study their countries' situation and implement everything that has been agreed upon.

RIYADH RADIO ON ARAB, ISLAMIC REACTION TO WORLD EVENTS

LD011614 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 1 Dec 79 LD

[Hashim 'Abduh Hashim commentary]

[Text] Taking a long-term view of what is taking place in many parts of the world, an observer would not be far wrong in coming to the two following conclusions: 1) the international map will witness in the future many drastic changes because of the sharp conflicts between the big powers over the strategic regions of the world; and 2) the small states will face many dangers.

Therefore the question now is: How can the people of the world avoid these conflicts and how can they insure their future, complete safety and stability? The natural answer is that these peoples if they can build their internal structure on a sound basis, can remove themselves from the danger areas and thereby protect themselves from all enemies.

This is possible when the states of the world fully assert their existence free from external direction and take what they like in the way of decisions, without foreign influence over any decision which they deem to be serving their own interests before the interests of any one else.

We in the Arab and Islamic world are required to comprehend these facts and define the dimensions of the future on the basis of correct understanding of all the successive moves around us. We in the Arab and Islamic world are required to move in two directions simultaneously. The first is to build an Arab Muslim man on the basis of a true faith, sincere brotherhood, common destiny and complete awareness of the dangers engulfing the Arab and Islamic nations, not on the basis of differing views, conflicting attitudes and opposing forces. The second is to watch the moves of enemies and vindictive people so that the nations may be in a constant state of readiness to face all new situations, for it is not true that all those around the Arab and Islamic nations harbor goodwill or that all those who deal with these nations do not seek to achieve desires and serious aims at the expense of the Arab and Islamic peoples.

The Arab and Islamic world possesses much potential and resources which can insure the destruction of all elements of evil and crush all their attempts, at the same time gaining for its peoples greater survival as long as they all subscribe to a common action in the interests of their security, safety and stability.

VENEZUELAN ENERGY MINISTER ARRIVES FOR TALKS

LD301550 Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1505 GMT 30 Nov 79 LD

[Text] Riyadh--The Venezuelan minister of energy and mines, Humberto Calderon, arrived in Riyadh this evening on a visit to the kingdom within the framework of his current tour of a number of OPEC states. At the airport he was met by Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani, minister of petroleum and mineral resources, and by a number of ministry officials.

Meets Yamani

LD011210 Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1027 GMT 1 Dec 79 LD

[Excerpt] Riyadh--Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani, minister of petroleum and mineral resources, had a meeting this morning with the Venezuelan minister of energy Humberto Calderon Berti, who is currently on a visit to the kingdom as part of his current tour of a number of OPEC countries. All aspects of cooperation between the kingdom and Venezuela in the spheres of petroleum and its byproducts were reviewed during the meeting.

TUNISIAN FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES 1 DEC

LD011900 Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1845 GMT 1 Dec 79 LD

[Text] Riyadh, 1 December--His Excellency Mohamed Fitouri, the Tunisian foreign minister, arrived in Riyadh this evening. He was welcomed at the airport by Minister of Industry and Electricity Dr Ghazi al-Qusaybi, a representative of Royal Protocol Department, and Tunisian Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Kacem Bousnina.

Ends Visit

LD031156 Riyadh SNA in Arabic 0815 GMT 3 Dec 79 LD

[Text] Riyadh, 3 December--Mohamed Fitouri, Tunisian foreign minister, left Riyadh this morning at the end of a 2-day visit to the kingdom. He was seen off at the airport by Dr Ghazi al-Qusaybi, minister of industry and electricity, and a representative of the Royal Protocol Department.

UAE

AL-FAJR REPORTS ON DEAL FOR NAVAL WEAPONS

JN010953 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0905 GMT 1 Dec 79 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 1 December--The UAE has concluded an arms deal with several foreign companies, which are specialized in the production of naval weapons, to strengthen its naval forces and develop their combat efficiency. The newspaper AL-FAJR published in Abu Dhabi reports today that this deal involves gunboats and missiles for use against vessels and floating naval units. The paper adds that a number of UAE citizens are currently being trained in the use of the gunboats in the countries with which the deal has been signed. However, the paper does not reveal the names of these countries.

YAR

SAN'A' COMMENTS ON ENDING OF 'UNHEALTHY FACTORS'

JN031923 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 Dec 79 JN

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The corrective process is a national issue which should take place in every field and in all the administrative and financial departments. This has been stressed by brother President Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih on all occasions, particularly on the occasion of the last anniversary of the glorious 26 September revolution when he said: The corrective process should cover all sectors and all persons who have any connection to administrative and financial duties.

What makes the corrective process an urgent national issue and an inevitable popular demand is that the achievements and gains that have been obtained through the sincere and loyal measures adopted by our wise leadership could have yielded better results and have had deeper effects on the political, economic and social edifice had it not been for the disorder, improvisation and a lack of a sense of responsibility in many of the executive organizations and organs, factors which reduced the returns expected within the framework of our comprehensive development plan. In other fields of production and work, the plan succeeded to achieve overwhelming results, which have gone beyond the set targets, because those who worked in these fields fully absorbed the development plan and worked sincerely to render it a success.

Therefore, we would like to stress that more victories over backwardness, whether through the 5-year development plan or the cooperative experiment and the popular organizations, depend on the seriousness and the comprehensive character of the corrective process.

President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's insistence on proceeding on the road of the corrective process means a courageous admission of the presence of mistakes, corruption and abuses. This means that the state cannot remain a bystander in regard to these serious, unhealthy factors, which represent the most dangerous characteristics of backwardness. The state is obliged to take the most stringent measures to purge its organs and institutions of all the elements that do not wish to correct themselves and work with a sense of national responsibility in this serious development stage. This stage calls on all the citizens to pool their sincere efforts for wiping out the negative residues of the past.

Since our political leadership, represented in brother leader Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, have reviewed the formation of the Higher Corrective Council and have regulated its responsibilities to enable it to carry out its corrective duties, this council and all the subsidiary organs should realize the seriousness of the responsibility they are shouldering or should at least realize that slackness in the field of the corrective process will be considered as an entrenchment of disorder, lack of discipline and abuses in all fields.

To avoid what the people are saying--that the corrective process needs another corrective process--from becoming a reality, the Higher Corrective Council and its subsidiary committees are called upon to avail themselves of the sincere national aspirations of our political leadership in order to proceed with all courage and firmness on the road of the corrective process, which is an extension of the road to the revolution.

PRIME MINISTER RETURNS FROM BRITAIN 1 DEC

JN012115 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2055 GMT 1 Dec 79 JN

[Text] YAR Prime Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani returned to San'a' today at the end of a 10-day visit to Britain. 'Abd al-Ghani had held talks with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher on bilateral economic and trade relations and the current Arab situation.

GOVERNMENT EXPELS MENA CORRESPONDENT IN SAN'A'

JN041521 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1500 GMT 4 Dec 79 JN

[Text] San'a', 4 December--The Yemen Arab Republic has expelled the MENA correspondent in San'a'. This was announced by YAR Information and Culture Minister Yahya al-'Arashi when he met today with Arab and foreign news agencies' correspondents. He said that this measure derives from the resolutions of the Arab News Agencies directors' conference, held in Kuwait recently, which called for a boycott of MENA.

PRESIDENT SALIH DISCUSSES SECURITY IN GULF REGION

JN301825 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 30 Nov 79 JN

["Text" of interview given by YAR President Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to Tunisian newspaper AL-WATAN--date and place not given]

[Excerpt] The Arab nation is currently facing various challenges in terms of oil and the Arabian Peninsula. Since your country falls on the most important water passageway after the Strait of Hormuz, do you intend to participate in any military Gulf action to fend off these challenges?

Answer: The fraternal states that are overlooking the Gulf know better how to defend their interests and progress. On our part, we support every measure meant to protect their independence and dignity. We are fully prepared to play our pan-Arab role at any time should this area be threatened.

Question: Since you assumed power in the YAR, your country has been the scene of tremendous stability and democratic accomplishments that are paving the way for the first parliamentary elections in Yemen. How do you view the future in terms of what was achieved during the previous stage?

Answer: I am optimistic over the future, particularly since it will based on the factors of the present stage in which we have achieved numerous gains and national accomplishments in terms of building democracy and making development changes.

BRIEFS

PDRY RADIO TRANSMITTER--Information Minister Rashid Muhammad Thabit today opened the new headquarters of Aden's National Radio and Television Service and a 400-kilowatt mediumwave transmitter which will improve reception of Aden Radio throughout the country as well as the Yemen Arab Republic. These projcets were built with Czechoslovak aid. [Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 29 Nov 79 EA/LD]

PRIME MINISTER KHALIL MEETS MINISTER OF STATE GHALI

NC041408 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1336 GMT 4 Dec 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 4 December--Prime Minister Mustafa Khalil today met for an hour and a half with Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali. After the meeting, Dr Ghali stated that they discussed Egypt's concepts on the forthcoming Egyptian moves related to the autonomy talks on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. He added that these concepts will help realize Egypt's main goal namely: Helping the fraternal Palestinian people achieve self-determination.

Dr Ghali said his meeting with the prime minister also dealt with topics related to the U.S. President's new envoy to the Middle East, Sol Linowitz, who will start his visit to the Middle East on Saturday by coming to Cairo. Dr Ghali added that the other topics which were discussed were connected with the meeting of the main committee for autonomy which will meet in Tel Aviv before the end of this month, and that a final date for the meeting has not been set up yet. Dr Ghali said the main committee will meet at the level of the heads of the Egyptian, Israeli and American delegations.

UNEF GENERAL COORDINATION ARRIVES IN CAIRO

NC041308 Cairo MENA in English 1303 GMT 4 Dec 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, Dec. 4 (MENA)--General coordinator of the UN Emergency Forces in the Middle East Ensio Siilasvuo arrived here today from Jerusalem on board special aircraft.

SALIM LEAVES FOR NIGERIA WITH AS-SADAT LETTER

NC050830 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 5 Dec 79 NC

[Text] Presidential assistant Mamduh Salim left Cairo for Nigeria this morning on a 4-day visit during which he will hand the Nigerian president a letter from President as-Sadat dealing with the developments in the Middle East in the light of Egypt's efforts to achieve a comprehensive solution for the crisis. The letter also contains congratulations from President as-Sadat to the Nigerian president on his election.

Salim and the accompanying delegation will hold discussions with Nigerian officials on bolstering cooperation between the two countries. They will also review African and international questions.

NEW MILITARY OPERATIONS CHIEF APPOINTED

NC040728 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2258 GMT 3 Dec 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 3 December--The Tuesday edition of the newspaper AL-AHRAM says that it has learned that it has been decided to appoint Maj Gen 'Abd Rab an-Nabi Hafiz as chief of the operations staff of the Egyptian Armed Forces. He will succeed Lt Gen Hasan Abu Sa'dah, who was appointed ambassador at the Foreign Ministry.

Maj Gen 'Abd Rab an-Nabi formerly occupied the post of commander of the 2d Field Army.

The paper says that it has also been decided to appoint Maj Gen Ibrahim al-'Urabi as commander of the 2d Field Army. Major General al-'Urabi formerly occupied the post of Chief of Staff of the 2d Field Army. The paper adds that the ceremony for handing over the command of the 2d army will be held on Thursday.

'ARAFAT REPORTEDLY PREVENTS INVASION OF GULF ISLANDS

NC050823 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0750 GMT 5 Dec 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 5 December--Quoting Palestinian sources, the weekly magazine AKHIR SA'AH reports today that the recent sudden visit of PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to Baghdad stopped in Iraqi military operation aimed at invading and forcibly occupying three islands in the Gulf which Iran is now occupying.

The magazine says that the PLO representative in Tehran told 'Arafat that Iraq was likely to invade the three islands of Lesser Tunb, Greater Tunb and Abu Musa. 'Arafat quickly contacted Iraq and then left for Baghadad to convince Saddam Husayn not to invade the three islands and avoid an armed confrontation with Khomeyni.

BAGHDAD IN KURDISH COMMENTS ON IRANIAN CONSTITUTION

JN041537 Baghdad Domestic Service in Kurdish (Surani) 1700 GMT 3 Dec 79 JN

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Voting on the referendum for the new Iranian Constitution has begun in Iran. Khomeyni's regime has been met with rejection, because the new Constitution does not guarantee basic rights and demands for the Iranian people.

Some 30 political and party organizations have declared that they will boycott the referendum, because the new Constitution does not provide for their demands, does not achieve the principle of government by the people and excludes women's rights.

The new Constitution has also been opposed by members of the Council of Experts, such as ('Ali Zada Ghafuri), who called both for amending this Constitution and for drafting a new one. In a televised interview yesterday, Minister of Finance and Economy Abolhasan Bani Sadr said that the Constitution has many defects. Many citizens have also refused to vote, because the new Constitution does not guarantee political rights. Kurdish citizens did not take part in the referendum. The Muslims' Unity Party in Baluchistan and other parties in Kordestan and Azarbayjan, as well as Turkomen, boycotted the referendum.

Reports from Iran speak of acts of violence in all areas against the new Constitution. Citizens in Baluchistan attacked and occupied the governor's office and took the governor hostage.

The Iranian people are passing through difficult circumstances because the Iranian regime is misleading them. The regime can no longer pursue a sound course and fulfill the Iranian people's demands. It is to be recalled that Khomeyni's regime is far removed from democracy. Khomeyni's regime has failed to achieve what the Iranian strugglers fought for during the shah's reign. The Iranian people fought for freedom and for a new Iranian society.

IRAQI ISLAMIC GROUP TO HOLD PROTEST MARCH 4 DEC

LD031314 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 3 Dec 79 LD

[Text] The organization of the Islamic Revolution struggle of Iraq has announced that the protest march against the behavior of the Ba'th Party governing Iraq has been postponed until tomorrow, Tuesday, at 1500.

KING HUSAYN SENDS CONGRATULATIONS TO SAUDI KING

JN041933 Amman Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 4 Dec 79 JN

["Text" of message from King Husayn to Saudi King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Sa'ud; date not given--read by announcer]

[Text] I would like to extend to you my Arab, Islamic, fraternal and sincere greetings. At dawn today, we learned that God's abode has been purged of the apostate clique, which perpetrated the most sinful crime in the Al-Haram Mosque, a crime that left us, as Arabs and Muslims, heartstriken. We lived the developments of this attack minute by minute and wished again and again that we had the honor of dying as martyrs in defense of the Muslim's Qiblah, or of sharing with our families and brothers the honor of confronting the deluded aggression, which was perpetrated by those who had strayed from Islam's right path.

At the same time we appreciated the circumstances and were aware of the necessity for caution in dealing with the crime, in order to protect God's holiest abode and the good, innocent souls there, who were taken by surprise by the heinous criminals.

We hope that the outcome of the investigations that are being conducted will finally reveal to the Arab and Islamic nation the true colors of the apostate gangs, who hid under the pretext of Islam and Arabism while, at the same time, infiltrating the ranks in an attempt to delude the people, commit the ugliest of crimes in the name of religion and attribute to Islam and Arabs something that is far removed from their ethics and morals.

It seems that the aggressive foreign sides have realized that the nation's power lies in its religion, which has unified it, and its ethics and morals, which have distinguished it in the world and buttressed it against the enemies' ambitions and aspirations. Thus, these enemies planned and began working to invade the nation from the vantage point of its power, in an attempt to weaken and fregment it, in order to achieve their objectives.

The apostate clique did not realize that the Al-Haram has God to protect it and that the heinous crime will warn the Arabs and the Muslims that such a crime is directed against them, thus leading to repulsion of the infiltrators and strayers from God's merciful religion.

It is high time for the Muslim's real ulema to work in such a way that the message, with which God endowed the best of nations, will be protected and maintained as the message of morals, high values, right and prosperity for all humanity, in all places and at all times. God the Almighty will show mercy to all those who have been martyred in defense of the holiest of abodes and jihad for God. Please accept our sincere love and appreciation.

AMMAN RADIO COMMENTS ON IMPLICATIONS OF MECCA MOSQUE INCIDENT

JN012001 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 1 Dec 79 JN

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The forces charged with cleansing the blessed mecca mosque are continuing to flush from the mosque's cloisters the deviant group that violated the sanctity of the Muslims' Qiblah [the direction muslims face in praying] and God's house in the month of Muharram.

The incident at the blessed mosque is still with us and the Arab and Muslim world is still awaiting the unmasking of the real motives that prompted this group, with its mistaken interpretations, to deviate from Islam and defect from the Muslim ranks, carrying out this criminal act, violating the holiest spot on earth and allowing itself to shed Muslim blood in God's ancient house.

This incident should prompt officials in Arab and Muslim states to institute genuine supervision over the phenomena of deviation from the true religion and over ignorant claims that mistaken individual interpretations can find a better course for Muslims' lives.

Although this phenomenon is not the first in our long history, the exploitation of religion and the feelings of Muslim laymen in depicting criminal acts against Islam as efforts to save the religion and the believers faces us with a new reality in which there is a lack of ties and disciplines, thus enabling the mentally ill to spread their venom and to try to brainwash people under the guise of Islam, while Islam has nothing to do with them.

Therefore, we should look at the societies and institutions that don the garb of religion and have been trying for years to misrepresent Islam's tolerant teachings to some naive people, in order to use them in the future, or prepare them for exploitation by anti-Arab and anti-Muslim quarters--as was the case in more than one place and at more than one time, and as is the case in more than one place in the Arab and Muslim countries at present.

A group that violates Islam's sanctity under the pretext of defending Islam, even though its primary culture is Islamic, has in fact deviated from Islam and should be mercilessly cut off and crushed. This is because it opens the door to the nests of conspiracies and destruction within Arab and Muslim societies.

Though it may be true that some of the current phenomena are the product of the long series of failures suffered by Arabs and Muslims during their modern history, the criminal tendency of these phenomena to undermine Islam, violate Muslim sanctuaries, shed Muslim blood and disregard Muslim rites should be met by the Arab and Muslim states with stringent measures that insure the preservation of their societies' unity and tolerant beliefs and the protection of their sanctities and rites against all tamperings, from whatever source.

We hope that the Saudi Arabian authorities will succeed in putting a decisive end to the criminal gang that violated the Muslims' holy places.

PRIME MINISTER RECEIVES PLO'S ABU SITTAH

JN020715 Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 2 Dec 79 p 1 JN

[Text] Prime Minister Mudar Badran received in his office yesterday Hamid Abu Sittah, head of the PLO Occupied Land Affairs Department. The discussion during the 1-hour meeting centered on matters pertaining to the joint Jordanian-Palestinian committee in charge of supporting the steadfastness of the citizens in the occupied land.

MUSLIMS INVOLVED IN MECCA MOSQUE TAKEOVER ARRIVE IN BEIRUT

NC041558 Paris AFP in English 1535 GMT 4 Dec 79 NC

[Text] Beirut, Dec 4, (AFP)--Eleven of the Muslim militants who took over the Grand Mosque of Mecca last month have arrived in Beirut, the head of a group opposed to the Saudi Arabian Government said today. Nasir Sa'id, president of the People's Union of the Arabian Peninsula, said that the 11 militants (had decided against) meeting with reporters at the present time. Mr Sa'id explained that the rebels--from such Saudi tribes as the 'Utayabah, Har, Shammar, Mutayr and Qahtan--"fear for their safety and wish to have some time for reflection before making contact with the press."

Saudi officials said today the last of the Mosque invaders holding out in the cellars of Islam's holiest shrine were either killed or captured during the night. Mr Sa'id added that the 10 men and one woman in Beirut, who claimed the mosque takeover was a "political act," left the shrine 3 days after the initial assault on November 20 and made their way to Lebanon via Jordan. The People's Union of the Arabian Peninsula claims to have regrouped with 600 clandestine members after having been decimated several times by Saudi Arabian authorities.

Saudi officials have dismissed Mr Sa'id's statements as "the whimsical declarations of a so-called spokesman for imaginary movements." Mr Sa'id also added that according to information received this morning from Saudi Arabia, fighting was actually going on there in a mountainous region between Mecca and At-Ta'if.

PRIME MINISTER RECEIVES IRANIAN COUNCIL SPOKESMAN

NC042040 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 4 Dec 79 NC

[Text] This evening, Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss received a delegation from Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Council at his residence in Ad-Dawhah. The meeting was attended by the Iranian charge d'affaires in Beirut.

After the 1-hour meeting a Revolution Council delegation spokesman said: We met with Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss and explained Iran's position in the Iran-U.S. confrontation, which we do not think is merely a crisis connected with the hosting of the shah or the holding of the hostages. It is deeper than that. The masses in Iran are striving for complete independence from the East and West and for the freedom to build an Islamic society.

The Iranian spokesman added: We also talked with the prime minister about the situation in southern Lebanon. We affirmed to his excellency the need for Islamic unity in this delicate time. Asked about the fate of Imam Musa as-Sadr, the Iranian spokesman said: We have nothing new on this.

Iranian Volunteers

NC042042 (Clandestine) Voice of Lebanon in Arabic to Lebanon 2015 GMT 4 Dec 79 NC

[Text] The head of an Iranian delegation, Shaykh Mohammad al-Hadi visited Prime Minister al-Huss this evening. After the meeting, Al-Hadi said that the 1,000 Iranians who were reportedly coming to the south were not being sent by the Iranian Government but by a local Iranian organization that had decided to send volunteers.

Al-Hadi made this statement in Ad-Dawhah after the meeting between the delegation from the Iranian Revolutionary Council and Prime Minister al-Huss. Al-Hadi added that there was nothing new concerning the Imam as-Sadr case. Regarding the shah, al-Hadi said: We will pursue him no matter where he goes--even if he goes to the White House.

Foreign Ministry Seeks Clarification

NC050701 (Clandestine) Voice of Lebanon in Arabic to Lebanon 0615 GMT 5 Dec 79 NC

[Text] What is new and exciting, perhaps, regarding the situation in the south is what Mohammad 'Ali al-Hadi, the special envoy of the Iranian Revolutionary Council, said in Beirut to the effect that 1,000 Iranian volunteers will go to the south to fight there. A Lebanese official source has stated in this regard that the Lebanese Foreign Ministry has summoned the Iranian charge d'affaires in Lebanon to clarify this matter.

Haddad Warns Against Cooperation

NC050755 Marj 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in Arabic 0600 GMT 5 Dec 79 NC

[Excerpt] Reports from Sidon indicate that the joint command of the Palestinian saboteurs and the leftist parties are making extensive preparations to receive the many Iranian so-called volunteers who will help the Palestinians and the Shi'ites in their war against Free Lebanon and Israel. These Iranians will be arriving in southern Lebanon on direct orders from the godless Khomeyni. It has also been learned that the commanders of the Palestinian saboteurs have visited positions in the Armun area and throughout the road from Hasbayya to the Al-Biqa Plain. The aim of the visits is to choose campsites and positions.

The Free Lebanon commander, Major Haddad, has told journalists in Al-Qulay'ah that Free Lebanon will deal with any village or sect that cooperates with the Iranians as he would deal with the enemy. Major Haddad called on the Lebanese compatriots to antagonize them and to consider them as new occupiers and saboteurs who do not seek the well-being of Lebanon or the Lebanese. Major Haddad said: I have given advice, warned and threatened and no blame should fall on me after that.

'FREE LEBANESE' CALL ON SARKIS TO SEND ARMY TO SOUTH

NC040840 Marj 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in Arabic 0600 GMT 4 Dec 79 NC

[Text] The good intentions and desire of His Excellency President Sarkis as well as the desire of his government to help the south and cleanse it of the filthy saboteurs and their helpers have been publicly confirmed. Because these groups intend to resist the idea of the army being sent to the south, the Free Lebanese Forces Command has decided to cooperate in the realization of the president's desire and to request that he not fear resistance but instead send in the army.

Let the army advance in battle formation from Az-Zahrani toward Tyre and An-Nabatiyah. For our part, we shall advance to meet the army halfway in order to return the south to its sons. The officials have nothing to fear in speaking publicly from now on because everything has been uncovered and everyone knows that since the beginning we have been cooperating with his excellency for the sake of one aim: Return Lebanon to the Lebanese.

BA'TH LEADER RECEIVES CYPRIOT EDEK OFFICIAL

JN031407 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1320 GMT 3 Dec 79 JN

[Text] Damascus, 3 December--In his office this morning, Comrade Fawwaz Sayyagh, Arab Socialist Ba'th Party National Command member and director of the Foreign Relations Office, received (Vias Livadas), EDEK Central Committee member, who is currently visiting Syria.

Discussion during the meeting centered on the friendly relations existing between the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and EDEK.

Comrade (Vias Livadas) conveyed greetings of struggle from EDEK leader Dr Vassos Lyssarides to President Hafiz al-Asad. In turn, Comrade Fawwaz Sayyagh requested (Vias Livadas) to convey President Hafiz al-Asad's regard to EDEK chairman Dr Vassos Lyssarides and to the EDEK leadership.

Comrade Fawwaz Sayyagh also conveyed, on behalf of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party leadership, his congratulations on the reeelection of Dr Vassos Lyssarides as EDEK secretary general and of the EDEK Central Committee member during the EDEK conference at the end of last month.

TISHRIN ON SYRIAN POSITION ON IRANIAN REVOLUTION

JN050753 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 5 Dec 79 JN

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Clock Cannot Be Turned Back," the newspaper TISHRIN says: Syria's support for the Iranian Revolution is not something new and has not become apparent on the occasion of the crisis that was fabricated by the United States' invitation to the deposed shah, the criminal whose hands are stained with the blood of the Iranian people's sons and whose conscience is burdened with the millions of dollars he has stolen from the Iranian people.

Syria's support began, in fact, before the triumph of the revolution and practically took shape in the letter His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad sent to Ayatollah Khomeyni immediately after the triumph of the revolution. In the letter he stressed Syria's solidarity and its readiness to cooperate with the revolution in all fields.

Syria's concern over cooperating and becoming cohesive with the Iranian Revolution has been great. The months that followed the triumph of the revolution witnessed the development of political and economic relations in all fields and of joint efforts to dissipate all the clouds in which imperialists have tried to shroud Arab-Iranian relations.

TISHRIN concludes: Syria has been the axis and the leader in the struggle to achieve this development, which has led the U.S. policy in the area to its historic crisis, which reached its peak with the triumph of the Iranian Revolution. Syria's stands and positions are finding recognition today from friends and foes and are gaining more supporters and people who are optimistic concerning the future. Even Kissinger, who planned for the imperialist-Zionist onslaught and led its first stages, was forced to admit the crisis reached by U.S. policy in the Middle East and the great transformation that has taken place in the balance of power to the disadvantage of the United States and Zionism. This came when he said in an interview with the magazine U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT that the real cause of the trouble was the shah's downfall, which led to a change in the regional balance of power.

Thus, President al-Asad's optimism in the future has materialized and the fact that the clock cannot be turned back proved once again to be true.

ATH-THAWRAH REAFFIRMS SUPPORT FOR IRANIAN REVOLUTION

JN041126 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 4 Dec 79 JN

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Support For The Iranian Revolution Is Part of the Confrontation," the newspaper ATH-THAWRAH says in an editorial today: The wave of U.S. threats against the Iranian Revolution is escalating. These threats are accompanied by deployment of fleets, consultations, contacts, calls and instigations by Israel and As-Sadat's regime--the United States' two partners in the Camp David aggressive alliance. This confirms that the Iranian Revolution is waging a crucial battle or confrontation against the forces of aggression and the conspiratorial plots in the region.

In one way or other, this confrontation is an essential effort in repulsing the imperialist-Zionist aggression. It will have a direct impact on the conflict and the potential situation in the area. This is one of the major factors that has made the Iranian Revolution the target of the Camp David partners' machinations.

ATH-THAWRAH adds: From the first day of its eruption, the Iranian Revolution moved Iran to its natural position within the trench that is hostile to imperialism and Zionism, thus expressing the Iranian people's true stand in support of the just Arab cause. This stand has added an effective force to the Arab confrontation of the aggressive forces. It has enhanced support for the Arab struggle to liberate the land and regain rights.

ATH-THAWRAH continues: By overthrowing the deposed shah, the Iranian Revolution made the forces of aggression and collusion lose an important stronghold, which was threatening the Arab liberation movement. It has weakened the enemy, because in its geographic location, resources and political stand, Iran is today an advanced site in the confrontation. This total change has given the confrontation a strategic dimension in favor of the Arab liberation movement and the just Arab struggle.

Through current developments in the confrontation with the United States, the Iranian Revolution has exposed U.S. methods of dealing with all states in the area. It has exposed the fact that the United States is allied with the peoples' enemies and supports the looting of wealth and the freezing of assets. The Iranian Revolution demonstrated that a steadfast patriotic stand is stronger than the deployment of fleets and the campaigns of plots and threats.

Concluding its commentary, the paper says: Syria's firm declaration of support for the Iranian Revolution epitomizes the stand of the Arab masses in confronting imperialism and Zionism. Support for revolutionary Iran is part of the confrontation we are waging in the interests of the Arab masses' struggle, liberation and advancement. It is in service to the liberation of the land and the restoration of rights, as well as to the liberation movement throughout the area and the world.

The dimensions of this confrontation and the parties in it have been defined, exposing the dangers of Camp David--both the conspiracy and the aggressive alliance.

We as Arabs are concerned in confronting this plot and alliance, because this is part of the comprehensive battle against imperialist and Zionist machinations in the area.

ALGERIA

U.S. MILITARY MOVE AGAINST IRAN 'NOT UNLIKELY'

LD031408 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 3 Dec 79 LD

[Excerpts] The case of Iran and its developments continue to occupy a leading place in international events, especially following the American insinuation about intervening militarily against the Iranian Revolution. Reports have indicated that [words indistinct] of the American 7th fleet are currently roaming the Gulf's southern region. Diplomatic information indicates that American military intervention against Iran is not unlikely.

Meanwhile, Egypt's regime once again has welcomed the stay of the shah in Egypt. American White House quarters, however, do not appear to be enthusiastic about this idea for fear that trouble might take place inside Egypt which would destroy the U.S. calculations and plans in the Middle East and subsequently result in the liquidation of the agent As-Sadat regime.

ALGIERS REPORTS ON OAU SESSION IN MONROVIA

LD042330 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 4 Dec 79 LD

[Report from Monrovia on the session of the OAU special committee on the Sahara]

[Text] The session of the special OAU committee, under the chairmanship of President Tolbert of Liberia, who is the current chairman of the OAU, has begun in Monrovia. Others attending are the presidents of Mali, Tanzania and Sudan and Secretary General of the POLISARIO Front Mohamed Abd'el Aziz. The committee invited Chadli Bendjedid, Algerian president and secretary general of the party, to attend the opening meeting. Observers see in this initiative evidence of appreciation for Algeria's continued efforts for peace and its practical contribution toward the strengthening of the OAU and adherence to the principles it stands for.

In the inaugural meeting, President Tolbert delivered a speech in which he reviewed the efforts which have been made since the last OAU summit last July and the preparations preceding the session of the special committee. He expressed disappointment at the failure of the president of Guinea and King Hassan to attend, saying that they had asked him to postpone the session of the special committee, having earlier confirmed their agreement to take part in the current session in Monrovia. Naturally, it was not easy to meet this request which came only a few hours before the session started. President Tolbert concluded his address by saying that the results of this session were bound to contribute toward the restoration of peace, the realization of African unity in North-West Africa and respect for the right of the Saharan peoples [words indistinct].

He was followed by Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri who, on behalf of members of the committee, thanked President Tolbert and stressed that the committee would make every effort to restore peace and to carry out the resolutions of the last OAU summit relating to the question of the Western Sahara.

Following the end of the inaugural meeting, President Chadli Bendjedid held a closed meeting with the chairman and members of the special committee, with the secretary general of the OAU attending. It was learned that the president reaffirmed Algeria's complete readiness to work within the framework of the OAU for the realization of a just and lasting peace in the Western Sahara.

The president and secretary general of the party recalled Algeria's consistent stands on this just question.

In connection with the session of the OAU special committee, Salem Ould Salek, the minister of information of the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic, in a statement to international journalists, said that the King of Morocco [words indistinct] proved by not responding to the invitation to attend the session his continued defiance to the will of Africa and his unwillingness to contribute to the efforts to restore peace, adding that the only explanation for the conduct of the king of Rabat [word indistinct] the attitudes of the racist regimes in South Africa and Rhodesia.

The Saharan minister went on to say that the king of Morocco was committing a major crime--by refusing to take part in the business of the committee--against the peoples of the region in the forefront of which are the Moroccan people themselves who are paying the price of the continued war in the Western Sahara. He concluded by saying that the king of Morocco was thus proving once again that a solution lay only in a continued armed struggle until the independence of our country and respect for its sovereignty have been achieved.

The special committee was still holding its closed session [word indistinct] at 1630 Algerian time.

This evening the representative of Morocco tried to enter the assembly hall without respect for the relevant procedures [words indistinct] compelling the authorities to eject him from the assembly hall. This reminds us of the disgraceful acts to which the royal regime resorts each time it feels [words indistinct] by the international organizations.

We have learned a short while ago that this afternoon's meeting heard a review by Mohamed Abdul Aziz, secretary general of the POLISARIO Front, at the request of the committee which also listened to a statement by the UN representative. According to an informed source, the statement refers to the contribution the United Nations could make to the committee in line with the last resolution adopted by the UN General Assembly. After this, the heads of state and delegations left the hall while the foreign ministers remained to debate points of the agenda.

LIBYA

JALLUD RECEIVES MAURITANIAN PRIME MINISTER

LD021103 Tripoli JANA in English 0807 GMT 2 Dec 79 LD

[Text] Tripoli, Dec 2, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY--Staff Major 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud yesterday conferred with Lt Colonel Mohamed Khouna Ould Heydalla, Mauritania's prime minister and vice president of the Military Committee for National Salvation. Lt. Col. Ould Hedalla had arrived in Tripoli yesterday.

The meeting was attended by the Foreign Secretary, Dr. 'Ali 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki, Moulaye Ould Bourkaraiss, member of the Military Committee for National Salvation and planning minister of Mauritania, the Mauritainian Foreign Minister, the Jamahiriyah's ambassador to Mauritania and the Mauritanian ambassador to the Jamahiriyah.

Prime Minister Departs

LD022210 Tripoli JANA in English 1635 GMT 2 Dec 79 LD

[Text] Tripoli, Dec 2, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY--The Mauritanian prime minister and vice president of the military Committee for National Salvation Mr Mohammed Ould Khouna Heydalla and his accompanying delegation left Tripoli today at noon after ending a two day visit to the Jamahiriyah.

Present at Mr Heydalla's send-off in Tripoli international airport were Staff-Major 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud, members of the General People's Committee and Mauritania's ambassador to the Jamahiriyah.

In a statement to our correspondent Mr Heydalla expressed appreciation for the hospitality with [which] his accompanying delegation and himself were received throughout the visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

He said the talks he conducted will have the highest positive effects on future relations between two brotherly peoples and that his visit fell within the framework of strengthening existing relations between Mauritania and Libya.

UGANDAN INTERIOR MINISTER ENDS VISIT

LD031226 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0900 GMT 3 Dec 79 LD

[Excerpt] Tripoli--Paulo Muwanga, member of the Ugandan Consultative Council and Minister of the Interior, left Tripoli this morning after a several-day visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

PETROLEUM MINISTER CALLS FOR OIL PRICE RISE AT CARACAS

LD041356 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1255 GMT 4 Dec 79 LD

[Text] Kuwait--The Libyan Secretary of Petroleum 'Izz ad-Din al-Mabruk today said that OPEC will raise its prices at the conference it will be holding in Caracas on 17 December. He called for the increase to be big, however, he did not mention the percentage of the expected increase or the percentage to be sought by Libya.

Al-Mabruk who is here to attend a conference of the Arab petroleum ministers, told journalists that the major world oil companies "are exploiting" the present oil situation in the world because of the shortage of Iranian oil supplies and have begun selling oil on the free markets at prices reaching $45 per barrel.

The price per barrel set by OPEC last June varies between $18 and 23.5. However, some members of the organization, among them Libya, have broken through the price ceiling.

Al-Mabruk called on OPEC to take a decision in the Caracas conference aimed at absorbing the difference between the companies' prices and the OPEC prices. He stressed that a decision to increase prices will be taken at the conference; however, he made it clear that Libya does not favor a gradual increase in prices.

MOROCCO

HASSAN EXPLAINS ABSENCE AT MONROVIA MEETING ON SAHARA

LD031804 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 3 Dec 79 LD

[Text] King Hassan II, may God grant him victory, has addressed a personal letter to Liberian President William Tolbert, the current chairman of the OAU, in which he explains Morocco's reasons for not attending the wisemen committee meeting scheduled to be held in Monrovia, the Liberian capital on 4-5 December to consider the so-called Saharan question. The letter was delivered to President Tolbert by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation M'hamed Boucetta with the similar messages to Ivory Coast President Felix Houphouet-Boigny and President of the People's Revolutionary Republic of Guinea Ahmed Sekou Toure. A similar letter was delivered by Moroccan Information Minister Abdelwahid Belakziz to President Ja'far Numayri of Sudan. Housing Minister Abbes el Fassi delivered another letter to President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria Alhaji Shehu Shagari. Here is the text of the royal letter:

From King Hassan II of the Moroccan Kingdom to His Excellency William Tolbert, President of the Republic of Liberia and current chairman of the OAU, Monrovia.

Your excellency the president of the republic and our friend who enjoys our utmost admiration:

This letter will undoubtedly not make you happy. But your unhappiness while reading it will be no less than our unhappiness in writing it.

When you honored us with your recent visit to our kingdom, we naturally and logically discussed the Sahara question. Throughout the talks, we tried our best to inform and convince you of the sincere desire of our people and ourselves to settle the Saharan question by peaceful means out of our belief that our continent as a whole lacks peace and calm.

In confirmation of what we told you at the time, we have gone to the extent of telling you that we have refrained from complaining about the presence of President Nyerere among the members of the wisemen committee. The Tanzanian president, as is known to all, believes that simply combining the membership of the wisemen committee, which has an arbitration task, and the official recognition of the so-called Saharan Democratic Arab Republic is a matter conducive to objectivity and unbias. Our questioning of this stems only from our desire to see a just settlement reached.

In the meantime, a member of the wisemen committee, President Mousa Traore, let no opportunity pass without intentionally favoring our adversaries, thereby overlooking the most fundamental norms of honorable behavior and objectivity which should characterize the role of an arbitrator who claims at the same time to be one of the group of wisemen.

Your excellency, the president and our friend with whom we share the utmost amity, Your excellency can realize that the tool we and our friends, the heads of the African states, have created has become an adulterated tool and consequently it cannot bring the future we have long awaited from its deliberations and views.

Your Excellency the president and our friend with whom we share the utmost amity and admiration: With deep agony and regret we express to you our desire for the postponement of the conference we had scheduled to hold in Monrovia until this ambiguous and serious situation is resolved.

In general, all armed conflicts have but one firm objective and goal: Namely, the ending of the fighting and the starting of a series of peaceful moves leading to forgiveness. But Morocco, which by virtue of its noble ancient culture cannot depart from this principle, wishes to affirm to your excellency its will to defend its rights andto contribute to peace with equal determinationand patience.

Your excellency the president and friend who enjoys our deep appreciation, we told you during our very extensive and frank talks that our sincerest hope is to see the OAU, under your chairmanship, endorse your firm and wise approach to action, in order to return peace to the region.

The feelingsthat had prompted us to make this declaration remain unchanged. Be convinced that Morocco will meet its commitment to be present at the reconciliation meeting when the most elementary conditions for self-denial and clarity are secured. In this respect, we trust that your excellency, given your past and present influence, will guarantee the return of African peace and wisdom.

Please accept, your excellency the president of the republic and our beloved friend, our highest regards and most sincere esteem.

[Signed] Hassan II, king of Morocco

PRIME MINISTER BOUABID RECEIVES PLO LEADER

LD050018 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 4 Dec 79 LD

[Summary] Prime Minister and Justice Minister Masti Bouabid this evening received Abu Adib, vice chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization and member of its executive committee. During this visit, which was attended by Abu Marwan,the PLO representative in Morocco, Abu Adib said he appreciated the observation of Palestine day in Morocco, particularly with regard to the content of the speech by King Hassan to the chamber of deputies on this occasion.

In a statement to our reporter after the meeting, Abu Adib expressed gratitude for this Moroccan initiative in support of the Palestinian issue. He said that at the meeting they reviewed the situation in the Arab region and the Palestinian issue as well as Morocco's role in this stage for the issue of Jerusalem.

At the airport Abu Adib was seen off by the Qatari ambassador in Morocco.

FOREIGN MINISTER LEAVES FOR LONDON CONFERENCE

LD031625 Rabat MAP in English 1205 GMT 3 Dec 79 LD

[Text] Casablanca, Dec 3 (MAP)--M'hamed Boucetta, Moroccan foreign affairs and cooperation minister left here Sunday for London where he will represent King Hassan II of Morocco at the international conference on Al-Quds, due to begin today in London.

In a statement to newsmen, the Moroccan minister indicated that he will deliver a speech on this occasion on behalf of King Hassan II of Morocco. He recalled that Morocco is the acting president of the Islamic conference current session, and that King Hassan II is the chairman of the Al-Quds committee.

Asked about the next meeting of the ad-hoc committee of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), Boucetta said that due to the confusing circumstances and the positions hostile to Morocco, the latter will not participate in this conference.

He also indicated that Morocco's stand will be known by the publishing of the letter that King Hassan II of Morocco has already addressed to the OAU's chairman, and Liberian President William Tolbert, and to other African presidents.

The Moroccan minister finally announced that he will give more explanations during the press conference that he will hold next Tuesday.

TUNISIA

FITOURI DELIVERS MESSAGE TO SAUDI KING KHALID

LD021624 Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1245 GMT 2 Dec 79 LD

[Text] Riyadh--Mohamed Fitouri, Tunisia's foreign minister, has stated that he has delivered a verbal message from Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba to His Majesty King Khalid Ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz expressing the solidarity of Tunisia's President, government and people with the kingdom and its satisfaction with the foiling of the assault against the sanctity of the sacred house of God by a group of dissidents.

In a statement made to SNA after his meeting with His Majesty King Khalid, Fitouri said: The Tunisian president, who had sent a cable to His Majesty King Khalid denouncing the incident directly after its occurrence, was anxious to send a private emissary to his majesty to affirm this solidarity. Fitouri mentioned that His Majesty King Khalid has delegated him to convey his appreciation and gratitude to President Bourguiba for his fraternal initiative.

The Tunisian foreign minister on the other hand described the 10th Arab summit conference held recently in Tunis as a wise, positive and coordinated action that will give positive results for the interests of Arab causes and the progress of the Arab nation. He added that the conference has scored in the political, diplomatic and information fields to publicize the Palestinian question, which is the principle question for the Arab world.

TAP OUTLINES TUNISIAN-YUGOSLAV RELATIONS

LD041554 Tunis TAP in English 1405 GMT 4 Dec 79 LD

[Text] Tunis, Dec 4 (TAP)--Chairman of the Yugoslav Federal Executive Council Veselin Djuranovic is due to arrive in Tunis today for a 3-day official visit.

Mr Djuranovic's visit is part of the contacts and consultation among Tunisian and Yugoslav high officials and of the strengthening of relations between both countries. Entirely in the service of the Tunisian and Yugoslav friendly people's interest and of the defence of just causes in the world, these relations have started before Tunisia's independence when Yugoslavia has made common cause with the struggling Tunisian people, thus starting rapprochement between the two peoples. Since then, they have not stopped developing to lead to the establishment of a true co-operation in several fields. [sentence as received]

The geographic rapprochement existing between the two countries through the Mediterranean, their membership in the non-aligned countries' group and their ahead-of-its-time part within this movement, the great friendship between both leaders and the similarity of their struggle for independence, and later on for social and economic progress, are so much factors which gave these relations a very positive impulse and made exemplary relations out of them.

A number of economic and commercial agreements exist between both countries but Tunisian-Yugoslav co-operation concerns also the sectors of agriculture, health, tourist-trade, youth and sports and the strides made by the two countries during these last years plead in favour of the strengthening and the extending of this co-operation.

As regards the non-aligned movement, both countries have made big efforts, notably during the last 2 years, to make concrete the idea of a new international information order meant basically to serve the developing countries' interests. On the political level, Tunisian-Yugoslav co-operation relates to the relations established between the Destour Socialist Party and the Yugoslav Communists' League which are, at present, the main driving powers of development in the two countries.

Talks Begin in Tunis

LD042010 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 4 Dec 79 LD

[Excerpt] Official Tunisian-Yugoslav talks began this evening at the government palace at Al-Qasabah, with a meeting between Prime Minister Hedi Nouira and Veselin Djuranovic, president of the Yugoslav Federal Executive Council.

The talks then continued in an enlarged working session between the delegations of the two countries headed by Hedi Nouira and Veselin Djuranovic, which went on until 1745.

The two delegations examined various aspects of bilateral cooperation and its (?development) and ways to strengthen it. They also reviewed the most important international issues and placed on record their views on various issues raised. In this connection, they agreed to strengthen contacts between the two countries for the sake of continuing dialog between them.

It was decided to hold a second working session between the two delegations on 6 December.

ASH-SHAK'AH RELEASED; EXPULSION ORDER CANCELED

TA051114 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 5 Dec 79 TA

[Text] Bassam ash-Shak'as has returned to Nabulus. He was released from Ramalah jail this morning. The expulsion order against him has been canceled and he will return to his post as mayor.

The decision was made by the commander of the Judaea and Samaria area, Maj Gen Ben-Eli'ezer, after he had studied the recommendations of the appeals committee. Major General Ben-Eli'ezer pointed out that the committee had recognized the security concerns which were the foundations of the expulsion order, found them to be well-founded and anchored in the material submitted to it. However, the committee had recommended reconsidering the matter because of the complex circumstances of the affair.

The commander of the Judaea and Samaria area consulted with his superiors and after misgivings, as he put it, he decided to cancel the explusion order. Among his considerations were the welfare of Nabulus and the welfare of Bassam ash-Shak'ah's family.

He said that he had also taken into consideration the fact that Ash-Shak'ah had declared, after the opening of the procedures against him, his opposition the murder of innocents. He repeated this declaration when he appeared before the appeals committee and said unambigiously that he was opposed to acts of violence and, in this context, to the act of murder on the coastal road.

This morning Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer met with Bassam ash-Shak'ah and explained to him that he must restrict himself to his post as mayor and the municipal affairs within the sphere of his authority according to the law. I hope, the commander of Judaea and Samaria said, that this decision will contribute to deepening the understanding between us in the spirit of the peace process we are experiencing.

Our correspondent Arye Gus points out that the decision to release Ash-Shak'ah was made after a consultation with the defense minister and his approval.

As for the resignations of the mayors in Judaea and Samaria, the commander of the area said that as long as they were not received by him, they were not legal.

DAVAR ON FAILURE OF LIKUD POLICY IN WEST BANK

TA040959 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 4 Dec 79 p 9 TA

[Yehoshu'a Tadmor article: "Husayn's Successes and Israel's Failures"]

[Text] Over the last 2 weeks the show of public sympathy for the PLO in the West Bank in the wake of the Bassam ash-Shak'ah affair has taken on an aggressive character. We did not expect such exhibitions when Palestinian autonomy was agreed upon. Those Israeli citizens who supported a Jordanian-Palestinian solution believed that there was no room for a third state between the sea and the desert. They adopted the assumption that Jordan was Palestine and Palestine was Jordan, which has always been accepted by Husayn. Most of the PLO leaders, too, for opposite reasons, of course, adopted this view and made it easier for those in charge of Israeli foreign policy to defend their position. What was concealed in the foundations of this position was the fear that a Palestinian state in the West Bank, headed by the PLO, would sooner or later overthrow the Jordanian regime and take control of Jordan, with the aid of the demographic majority, the dynamism of the West Bank inhabitants and the many Palestinians in the Jordanian Kingdom.

Husayn and his grandfather, King 'Abdullah, understood this danger very well many years before the Six Day War. Since 1948, when the West Bank was conquered by the [Arab] legion at the order of 'Abdullah, Jordan has a clear policy in the West Bank. Its main point was a methodical attempt to prevent the establishment of an all-Palestinian leadership which would identify itself with separate Palestinian nationalism and would try to take over the representation of the West Bank. For this purpose the Jordanians encouraged the regional representation and local interests of the different sections of the West Bank, both in the Jordanian Parliament and in the urban-municipal and rural planes. Thus, for more than 20 years, the traditional rivalry between Hebron and Nabulus, both of whom fought for seniority in Amman, was fostered. This competition also bore a personal family-clan nature for all those years. The Al-Ja'bari family in Hebron against the Al-Masri family, with its various ramifications, in Nabulus (by the way, Bassam ash-Shak'ah is also one of them).

This rivalry fostered by Jordan was so sharp that none of the Hebron notables dared set foot in Nabulus and vice versa. The Jordanian Government, headed by the king, for the most part chose the Palestinian ministers in the various Jordanian Governments on a personal basis and also the members of Parliament, preserving the balance between Hebron and Nabulus, between Bethlehem and Ramallah. For this purpose Jordan fostered regional localism, the enmity and separation between the two regions and used, from time to time, a policy of stick and carrot--at times aid and at times a strong hand. Sometimes it also used its bedouin units to uproot any show of organization or an expression of enmity.

From 1948 to 1967 Jordan succeeded in implementing this policy almost without hindrance. The PLO did not exist at all and the call for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state was made in a very weak voice, only at about the time of the Six Day War. Any show of opposition to the Jordanian rule was insignificant. Outstanding Palestinian figures from among the inhabitants of the West and East Bank served from time to time in office as prime ministers and senior ministers in the Jordanian Government, mayors and other leaders from the West Bank population were chosen by King Husayn for representative roles after they had expressed loyalty to the regime. If there were shows of opposition here and there, they were repressed with a strong hand, as stated, with the silent agreement of the heads of the Palestinian leadership on both banks.

The foundations of the Jordanian policy were guided by the basic view of preventing the establishment of strong focuses of power in Judaea and Samaria and the crystallization of an all-Palestinian leadership which would want to represent the entire West Bank. It was not in vain that Husayn claimed that "Jordan is Palestine and Palestine is Jordan." The long list of prime ministers and senior ministers of Palestinian origin who served in the various Jordanian Governments, as well as the many members of Parliament from the West Bank, were the basis for the stability of the Jordanian administration in Judaea and Samaria.

The failure of Israel's policy in the West Bank sprang, first and foremost, from the absence of a general view. In recent years Israeli policy in the West Bank has swung between, on the one hand, the view of a temporary military government demonstrating a firm presence but helpful in giving services, while "waiting for a phone call," and, on the other hand, encouraging local municipal rule, and all this with zigzags and prevention of any political activity in the territories. This contributed nothing to the advancement of the understanding between the peoples and the moderation of enmity toward Israel.

With the signing of the peace agreement with Egypt and the publication of the autonomy program, the Israeli ways of ruling were completely disrupted. The Likud leaders failed completely to understand the strong waves washing the West Bank.

Theoretically, Israel could have chosen three paths from the beginning: A. The path of Husayn's control over the West Bank, adapting it to new frameworks subordinate to Israel's interests. B. A clear orientation to Jordan. It is true that the cost of this is high--almost giving up the whole West Bank--but in return Israel would gain full peace, accompanied by a reasonable chance of demilitarizing the West Bank and turning the Jordan and the Jordan rift valley settlements into a security border. C. Giving encouragement to a sort of independent Palestinian entity, dependent economically and politically on Israel. Surely an administration of this sort would rapidly give birth to a layer of interested leaders with no interest in PLO control. Israel would remain in the background, sometimes helping this entity from the economic viewpoint, sometimes using muscles against hostile organization, but the IDF would move completely away from the population centers, deploy itself only in strategic places, absolutely refrain from acting as a conquering power and permit the local leadership and the public to have power and conduct the affairs of the population as they see fit. This sort of freedom of action, including political freedom, would dissolve full exhibitions of solidarity with the PLO.

It is true that each of these three possibilities would involve risks, but the process we are witnessing today in worse than all three: the unification of all elements in the West Bank into an anti-Israeli national front, beginning in the underground cells of the "Palestine Liberation Front," the communists and all other organizations which are branches of the PLO and going on the the last of the moderates among the mayors and supporters of King Husayn, who are being dragged after them [the PLO branches] for lack of choice.

For the first time in Palestinain history one firm front has been established, whose tone is being set by the most extremist of the PLO supporters. This is the "achievement" of the autonomy policy headed by the Likud government.

WEIZMAN STUDYING TRANSFER OF MILITARY POSTS TO CIVILIANS

TA040911 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 4 Dec 79 p 1 TA

[By Ze'ev Schiff]

[Text] The defense minister, Mr Ezer Weizman, has given a team of experts the task of examining the possibility of transferring various posts from the military government in Judaea and Samaria and the Gaza Strip to representatives of the local inhabitants, with the aim of the IDF staff restricting, as far as possible, their intervention in civilian posts in the territories.

It is the defense minister's intention that in each and every civilian sphere and issue dealt with by a local official, the parallel post fulfilled by an IDF officer would be canceled. For example, wherever there is an Arab representative dealing with educational issues, the post of a general headquarters officer for educational affairs in the military government will be cancelled.

This aim is in the spirit of the Camp David agreements, in which Israel guaranteed to transfer the military government's affairs to the local inhabitants. However, in addition to this, the defense minister thinks that he must do more to cut down, as far as possible, the IDF's intervention in political and civilian issues.

Feelers put out among various public figures in the territories by Israeli representatives have uncovered embarrassment and mixed feelings on the issue of the military government's withdrawal and the transfer of posts to the local inhabitants. On the one hand, there is the desire for the Israeli military government to withdraw and for Palestinians to take upon themselves more and more posts and responsibilities; on the other, there is a fear that by cooperating in this way the inhabitants will contribute to the fulfillment of the autonomy to which they are opposed. It is clear that this question requires clarification in the PLO institutions in order to decide upon a crystallized position.

FURTHER DETAILS ON ELON MORE SITUATION REPORTED

TA041605 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 4 Dec 79 TA

[Text] I shall regret to see Elon More evacuated without a confrontation, chairman of the Elon More Secretariat Beni Katzover told our correspondent. At the same time, he said that the possibility that Elon More would nevertheless be evacuated is certainly realistic. The members of the Gush Emunim Secretariat are still meeting now. They say they are finalizing the decision they made this morning and are formulating it prior to presenting it to the prime minister. Our correspondent Gil'ad Mishori brings more details.

[Mishori--live or recorded] What was Gush Emunim's decision this morning? The precise formula of the decision has not yet been publicized, and the gush's Secretariat says it will be publicized only after it is brought to the prime minister. By the way, no meeting has yet been set between the representatives of Gush Emunim and the prime minister, and it was suggested that the prime minister would receive a letter which would include the formula of the decision. Beni Katzover, the secretary of Elon More, reported that the spirit of the decision was to evacuate voluntarily. He maintains that the Cabinet would not have to discuss the decision at all, since it is not in the form of conditions. For example, it does not maintain that evacuation depends on government legislation. These are, to repeat, Beni Katzover's statements. He thinks that the trend of the decision is positive and condemns violence between the settlers and the Cabinet.

According to Katzover, the prime minister would be able to order the works at Jabal al-Kabir to begin shortly after he is informed of the content of the decision. However, he would greatly regret seeing Elon More evacuated without a confrontation.

The decision may talk about voluntary evacuation, but it includes a demand that the prime minister promise that in the future there will be expropriation of privately owned lands in Jabal al-Kabir and the approach to it as well, and also in the other Judaea and Samaria settlements. At any rate, reports from Gush Emunim say, the clauses appended to the decision also mention the status of the settlements throughout Judaea and Samaria, as well as Elon More itself.

Gush Emunim denies reports that the decision that was made has met with the opposition of many Secretariat members, and they add that Rabbi Druckman took part in formulating a large part of it.

Regarding the prior deliberations in Gush Emunim on the evacuation, MK Ge'ula Kohen met Rabbi Tzvi Yehuda Kook this morning. She claims that he denied having told the members of the gush to evacuate Elon More in order to keep the Cabinet intact. He said that no privately owned land should be stolen; on the other hand, she claims, Rabbi Kook said that the High Court of Justice order should not be abided by at all, since the court regards the people of Israel as conquerors of Judaea and Samaria.

According to Ge'ula Kohen, it suited various Coalition parties to distort Rabbi Kook's statement so that it could be interpreted as though he were in favor of unequivocal evacuation of Elon More.

[Announcer] The prime minister's office has not yet received a request from Gush Emunim to set a meeting with Mr Begin. Our political correspondent Yosi 'Abadi adds that the prime minister's office has not yet received any official information on Gush Emunim's decision. That is why there is no intention, at this stage, of advancing the deliberations on guaranteeing the legal status of the Judaea and Samaria settlements in light of the opinion which the government legal adviser is preparing on this.

A government source said at the beginning of this week that any Gush Emunim decision is the Defense Ministry's affair, whether it concerns the preparations of the alternative site at Jabal al-Kabir, or the preparation of the forces which would remove the settlers.

HA'ARETZ ON FUTURE OF COALITION WITHOUT AGUDAT YISRA'EL

TA040858 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 4 Dec 79 p 1 TA

[By 'Uzi Benziman]

[Text] Prime Minister Menahem Begin intends to continue to head the government even if the Agudat Yisra'el faction resigns and to consolidate parliamentary support for the government in the Knesset from members of the opposition as well--this could be learned last night from circles close to the prime minister.

According to the evaluations of these circles, Agudat Yisra'el's resignation cannot be avoided, but cutting down the Coalition to a majority of 61 Knesset members is not deterring Mr Begin from continuing to head the government. It appears that Mr Begin estimates that on decisive political issues involving the future of Judaea and Samaria, he will also find support for his positions from several Alinement Knesset members who have not voted against the government in several critical parliamentary tests on these issues.

The prime minister is apparently also basing his calculations on the assumption that an appreciable section of the Knesset members--including the opposition parties--are not certain of being included in the lists of candidates for the next Knesset and so they will not help to overthrow this government and advance the elections. Mr Begin is also taking into account that Knesset members from Agudat Yisra'el will continue to support the government in decisive votes.

EGYPTIAN ARMY REPORTEDLY CLEARING SINAI MINEFIELDS

TA031132 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 3 Dec 79 p 1 TA

[Text] The Egyptian Army has lately started to clear the big minefields planted in the Sinai after the Yom Kippur War along the "E" line in the disengagement maps.

The Egyptians are apparently planning to expand the approach roads leading from the Suez Canal to the center of the Sinai. Since the IDF withdrew from the Gulf area and the areas adjacent to the Suez Canal, and it is going to withdraw to the Al-'Arish-Ra's Muhammad line in about 2 months, the Egyptians are now hurrying to clear the big minefields. It is possible that the fortifications line they had along the canal will in the future be moved west of the canal, to the edge of the region where they are allowed to erect fortifications under the military agreement.

3 DECEMBER DEVELOPMENTS CONCERNING U.S. EMBASSY

March to Iraqi Embassy

LD030959 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0930 GMT 3 Dec 79 LD

[Statement issued 3 December by the "Central Committee of the Islamic Revolution"--read by announcer]

[Text] In His exalted name. According to information received today, a group of people will march from the former American Embassy toward the Iraqi Embassy. At present, when the spying den is occupied by the Muslim student followers of the imam's policy and all over the country people are supporting the Constitution, any kind of demonstrations and attack on embassies will be in the interest of the enemies of Islam and the country. It is appropriate that the brothers and sisters, members of the Central Committee, should refrain from taking part in these demonstrations and marches.

[Signed] Mohammad Reza Mahdavi Kani.

Accusation Against Jews

TA041041 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 3 Dec 79 TA

[Text] A very low turnout was registered today, the second and last day of the referendum on Iran's new Constitution. Since early this morning Tehran Radio has been urging the citizens to go to the polls and say yes to Khomeyni. However, it seems that the requests have been to no avail. One of the reasons for it: the boycott imposed on the referendum by several minorities in Iran. The boycott was almost complete in the Kurdish provinces. Here is a report we received this evening via satellite from the city of Sanandaj, the capital of Iranian Kordestan.

[Begin videotape of unidentified correspondent--in English] In the mountains of Kordestan the people refuse to vote. The Kurds, who represent 10 percent of Iran's population, decided to boycott the referendum. It was a political warning to the Ayatollah Khomeyni. The Kurds said Khomeyni's Islamic Constitution legitimizes a religious dictatorship in Iran. They say they will only support the government when Khomeyni agrees to give the Kurdish people autonomous rule. They are prepared to fight for self-rule. In the past 6 months, these Kurdish guerrillas have shown they are better soldiers than the Iranian Army. By not voting, in fact, many polling places were closed. The Kurds are throwing down the gauntlet saying 4 million Kurds do not consider the new Constitution the law of Iran. A 3-week cease-fire ends in 11 days and the Kurds are waiting for the ayatollah to make the next move. [end videotape]

The students holding the U.S. Embassy in Iran have published an announcement accusing Iranian Jews of transferring data to the U.S. Embassy during the shah's rule. Our correspondent notes that the students base their accusation on documents they seized from the embassy's safes. Nevertheless, the students emphasized that since Khomeyni rose to power, the Jews have severed their relations with the U.S. Embassy.

4 DECEMBER DEVELOPMENTS CONCERNING U.S. EMBASSY

Spokesman on OPEC Meeting

LD040442 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 4 Dec 79 LD

[Excerpt] Concluding, Dr Habibi added: Concerning radio and television, I must say that previously it was decided that this organization should be run on the basis of councils. Now that the responsibilities of Mr Qotbzadeh have increased, it was decided to carry out this project as soon as possible; and Mr Qotbzadeh will also be a member of the council.

Also, at the end of last night's session of the Revolution Council, Engineer Mo'infar placed some information concerning the oil conference of the ministers of the OPEC countries at the disposal of the correspondents. According to the report of the PARS NEWS AGENCY correspondent, Mo'infar referring to the fact that he has submitted a report to the Revolution Council on his trip to Saudi Arabia and the limited sessions of the oil ministers, stated concerning the decisions reached and the issues raised at the session of the ministers of the OPEC member countries: In this session the oil ministers of Venezuela, Iran, Kuwait, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Libya and Algeria participated and discussed various programs, especially the level of the oil production of OPEC member countries oil. The final decisions will be announced in the session of the ministers of the OPEC member states which will be held in Caracas on 17 December.

Mo'infar added: In this session, the project for setting up a joint fund to help and extend loans to the developing countries was approved. However, it was urged that the industrialized countries who purchase about 90 percent of OPEC oil should contribute to this fund. He added: The oil ministers of Kuwait and Algeria have invited me to hold discussions with them before convening the conference of OPEC ministers, and I hope we will be able to have these discussions.

Continuing his speech, oil minister Mo'infar added: The atmosphere of the conference was very good and all the participants at the conference were interested that necessary steps should be taken towards the further solidarity of OPEC members. Engineer Mo'infar, while denying the possibility of a rift among some members of OPEC on the issue of the possibility of increasing oil production by some of the OPEC member countries to compensate for cuts in the production of Iranian oil, said: Most probably, the OPEC members will not increase the level of their production and some, like Venezuela, have even announced that they will reduce the level of their oil production.

Mo'infar added: In this conference, I reminded the OPEC oil ministers that bearing in mind that America has frozen Iranian assets in her banks, this country is no longer a safe place for the assets of other countries. Concluding, he said: This action by America has had many negative consequences for them.

Report on Envoy Recall

BK040723 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0710 GMT 4 Dec 79 BK

[Text] Jakarta, Dec 3 (ANTARA)--Iranian Ambassador to Indonesia Mohammad Alikhani has been recalled by his government and will be given a new post in Tehran. Ambassador Mohammad Alikhani arrived in Jakarta in September 1979 to replace Ambassador Mohammad Ali Shokuhian. Ambassador Alikhani will be given an important post at the foreign ministry.

Ambassador Alikhani in view of this, has taken leave from a number of government officials including President Suharto, Vice President Adam Malik and Foreign Minister Mochtar Kusumaatmaja. Before the arrival of a new Iranian ambassador, Mahmoud Kamiabi-pur is to act as charge d'affaires ad interim.

3 Ambassadors Recalled

JN041753 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1716 GMT 4 Dec 79 JN

[Text] Tehran, 4 December--The Iranian Foreign Ministry has summoned Iran's ambassadors in Bonn, Jakarta, and the UN European headquarters in Geneva.

The evening newspaper ETTELA'AT quotes knowledgeable sources as saying that the recall of these ambassadors, who had been appointed during the era of former Foreign Minister Ebrahim Yazdi, is part of the liquidation process that has been started by the new foreign minister, Qotbzadeh.

8 Hostages 'Singled Out'

BK041039 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1000 GMT 4 Dec 79 BK

[Text] Students occupying the U.S. Embassy in the Iranian capital are reported to have singled out eight of the hostages for special interrogation.

'Divisions' Within Revolution Council

JN041159 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1055 GMT 4 Dec 79 JN

[Text] Tehran, 4 December--The newspaper MARDOM, organ of the Tudeh Party--which supports Khomeyni--today confirms the existence of divisions and differences among the members of the Islamic Revolution Council. The paper says that the differences over foreign policy mean that the council is not united, that foreign policy is not based on firm rules and principles and that each minister is acting according to his own whims.

The paper points out that four ministers have occupied the Foreign Ministry over the past 9 months, which proves that the government lacks a firm and definite foreign policy and that we do not know which state is friendly to Iran.

MARDOM describes Iranian-U.S. relations as vague and says that not all agreements between the two countries have been abrogated, adding that nobody knows whether U.S. military experts are still in the Iranian Army.

AFP Report

NC041326 Paris AFP in English 1319 GMT 4 Dec 79 NC

[Text] Tehran, Dec 4 (AFP)--An Iranian Communist Party newspaper today criticized the Revolution Council for lack of cohesion in making foreign policy.

The daily MARDOM, mouthpiece of the Tudeh Party (pro-Soviet communist), said the Council's foreign policy lacked a "clear basis." The paper mentioned differences between the former acting foreign minister, Abolhasan Bani Sadr and the new one, Sadeq Qotbzadeh.

Each new foreign minister acts according to his own whims and opinions, the paper said.

Unity in the council was essential and should take into account the views of all parties (including the Tudeh) that agree with Iranian leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni.

The paper, which carried a front page picture of the Tehran American Embassy where some fifty hostages are held, called it a "nest of spies". The editorial expressed indignation because various agreements between the shah and "American imperialism" had not yet been repudiated.

'Official Communique" on Hostages

NC041342 Paris AFP in English 1340 GMT 4 Dec 79 NC

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 4 (AFP)--Students holding 50 Americans hostage in the United States Embassy here said today they would make no further statement about their whereabouts.

"All details on the fate of the hostages will be given in an official communique," a student spokesman said.

Earlier the students denied reports that the hostages had been transferred from the embassy compound seized exactly a month ago.

Student Statement No 58

ID041754 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 4 Dec 79 ID

[Statement No 58 issued by the Muslim student followers of the iman's policy "based at the U.S. spy nest" read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Express all your power and whatever complaints you have against America. Direct all your demonstrations against America. [quote from] Imam Khomeyni. The great Satan, the criminal America, while continuing its oppression and inordinate plunderings, was able by implementing conspiracies and devilish plots at the hands of its internal henchmen to reinstate a filthy creature like the bloodthirsty shah who had fled Iran, as a result of the coup of 19 August, and inflict him on the deprived people of Iran. The U.S. Government of the time, in order further to support the shah and to sign agreements which consolidated and expanded its (?interests) and brought bondage, misery, poverty and destruction to the persecuted nation, sent its special envoy, Nixon, to Iran and this inflamed the anger of the mature and struggling Iranian people at the center of the university.

On 7 December 1953, the wave of student protests and demonstrations against America heightened with the arrival of Nixon. The puppet regime was frightened and took up arms and opened fire with American machineguns at the students on the university campus and thus added another leaf to the catalogue of American crimes. That day has been indelibly marked on the minds of the students. During the years of suffocation on this day the students, by their numerous demonstrations and strikes against the satanic Pahlavi regime and its American masters, made efforts to carry out their great mission (?which was) to expose the crimes of the satanic regime and the filthy nature of world-devouring America, in order to inform their oppressed people and (?encourage) them to rise.

Now that with the leadership of the imam, the all-round struggles of the heroic Iranian people and the oppressed nations in the region are expanding against U.S. imperialism, and have mobilized the rest of the oppressed masses, the sharp edge of our attacks on this day ought to be directed at the great Satan and we ought to proceed on this path until final victory.

Naturally, the student brothers and sisters abroad, too, will inform the world of this voice of protest in every possible way.

[Signed] Muslim student followers of the imam's policy.

Student Statement No 59

LD041805 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 4 Dec 79 LD

[Statement No 59 of the Muslim student followers of the imam's policy--read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God. Dear brothers and sisters, because of instances of abuse by individuals or irresponsible groups in the name of the Muslim student followers of the imam's policy, and since these people express their own personal or group views in various meetings and occasions in the name of the students, we thus declare that no one will speak on our behalf in gatherings or meetings. If it is necessary to announce any plan or program, this will be done by the students over the radio.

[Signed] The Muslim student followers of the imam's policy.

Kennedy's Statement on Shah

JN042054 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 4 Dec 79 JN

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] Political observers were astonished at Edward Kennedy's surprising statements. Kennedy, who is President Carter's rival in the 1980 elections, initially asked President Carter to take firm measures and to adopt whatever steps are necessary to force Iran to release the hostages. What has happened in the last few weeks to make Kennedy change his stand on the current developments? What has happened to make him support the Iranian people's demands to extradite the shah? What has happened to make him attack the deposed shah, who destroyed the country, killed or expelled thousands and stole millions of dollars, as Kennedy said?

The timing of Kennedy's statements reveals to the entire world further features of U.S. public opinion and the current U.S. mentality. During the presidential elections, a rival candidate normally begins a large campaign, during which he concentrates on the shortcomings of the current President. The rival candidate depends a good deal on the weapon of public opinion to attack the current President.

At the outset of the U.S. Embassy developments, U.S. public opinion was largely mobilized against Iran. The papers, the radios, the television news were all presenting a dark image of the Iranian Revolution. No wonder then that the mobilized mob was in favor of using force against Iran to make it release the hostages. The United States, under Zionist pressure and the force of the artificial U.S. media, used all of its weapons: It stopped importing Iranian oil, stopped the shipments of spare parts to Iran and eventually froze Iranian assets in U.S. banks. The United States thought that by doing this, it could cause Iran to yield. However, the revolution's position on the crisis with Washington was not affected by the U.S. measures. On the contrary, the revolution's inalienable stand has opened the Americans' eyes to the crux of the crisis, causing them to understand the Iranian people's just demands. [passage indistinct]

After the embassy's suspicious role was completely exposed to the Americans, a fact that contributed greatly to changing their stand on this issue, there came another humane decision, made by the nation's leader Imam Khomeyni, releasing all women and blacks. Imam Khomeyni's decision turned the U.S. public's stand upside down. This decision reflected the ethics and humane factor of the Islamic Revolution. Moreover, the attacks on U.S. Embassies in 10 Islamic countries underlined the fact that the Iranian Revolution's roots stretch deeply in various Islamic countries and among all oppressed peoples. The various U.S. trends have accordingly realized that attacking the Islamic Revolution would only jeopardize U.S. interests. For Iran is not alone on the battlefield; all of the Islamic masses are supporting it. The attacks on U.S. Embassies and the massive anti-imperialist demonstrations have revealed the real force of the Iranian Revolution, whose voice has reached even the heart of the White House.

Edward Kennedy is now attacking Carter and holding him responsible as the sole and direct reason behind the U.S. Embassy crisis, by agreeing to accommodate the Iranian people's butcher, the deposed shah.

Regardless of the real goals behind Kennedy's recent statements, we realize that they reveal to us, as well as to the entire world, the real stand of the American people, who are beginning to understand the various dimensions of the crisis. The American people are now blaming those who agreed to accommodate the deposed shah, the pharaoh of the 20th century.

Embassies Urge Hostages' Release

LD042110 Helsinki Domestic Service in Finnish 2000 GMT 4 Dec 79 LD

[Text] The Finnish Embassy in Tehran, together with the embassies of the other Nordic countries, Australia, Austria, Canada, Greece, New Zealand, Portugal, Switzerland, and Spain, today presented a new appeal to the Iranian foreign minister for the release of the staff of the United States Embassy in Tehran.

ASH-SHAHID Reviews Situation

JN051013 Tehran International Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 4 Dec 79 JN

["We Have Chosen For You" program]

[Text] Under the headline "The U.S. Idol From the Phase of Imperialism to the Phase of Occupation," the magazine ASH-SHAHID writes: With the lapse of 1 month since the occupation of the U.S. Embassy in Tehran by the Muslim student followers of the imam's policy, one big question is posed: Has this daring operation been able to achieve its objectives after this short period of time? The answer to this question calls for a review of the operation's repercussions outside Iran and the impact it has had on the Muslim Iranian people.

Although the operation has not yet achieved the main objective demanded by the students--namely, the return of the deposed shah to Iran--all indications are that major facts have been established and numerous gains have been achieved through this daring operation. The first of these facts is the restoration of confidence between the masses and the Islamic Revolution at its best. Some people had thought that the revolution ended with the departure of the shah and the replacement of the Pahlavi regime with the Islamic revolutionary regime. However, the revolution--represented by its leader, Imam Khomeyni, and its masses, who are spread out in all sectors of the population--has proved to everyone that the revolution is not yet over and that the enemies of the people are still active. The daring operation has also increased the faith of the masses of our people in their victorious revolution.

Not long ago, the masses marched on the military camps without arms, and today they are fighting--also without arms--the most ferocious and diehard regime in the world, a regime which has devastating weapons that can destroy the entire globe, turning it into bits and pieces. All this has given our masses the feeling that they can confront any hostile power.

The daring operation's impact on the internal situation can be detected from the following developments: Since the occupation of the embassy, all savage acts which used to be carried out by pro-U.S. elements in Kordestan and Khuzestan have completely stopped. This complete calm, which these two regions and all other Iranian regions are experiencing for the first time, clearly shows to us the conspiratorial role which the U.S. Embassy was playing. It is most certain that the agents were getting instructions to carry out their activities and acts of sabotage from this den of espionage.

Now that the initiative is in the hands of the masses, the agents are no longer able to carry out any activities. Moreover, the occupation of the embassy has terrified all the plotters. They are now worried about themselves and their overlords, who are in the people's clutches.

This fact is confirmed by the discovery in the U.S. Embassy files of maps indicating for purposes of sabotage sensitive areas in Khuzestan and other maps showing mountain routes and sensitive military and economic installations from the city of As-Sulaymaniyah in Iraq to the region of Khuzestan. All this proves to the world the involvement of the ruling Iraqi regime, which has established four camps for training criminal saboteurs, thereby establishing that regime's connection and collaboration with U.S. imperialism in this dirty plot. The U.S. Embassy was planning and the regime of Saddam Husayn was implementing.

As for the impact of this daring operation on the struggling peoples, it was raised the morale of these peoples. The United States, which was presented by the media as an invincible power because of its weaponry and manpower, is now stunned and unable to do anything to free its agents from the people's clutches. The daring operation has rubbed the nose of mighty America in the mud and has proved to the world that the United States is just a paper tiger. This heroic operation has given all oppressed peoples the courage to demand their rights and to resist their main hangman: The United States. The oppressed peoples are very pleased with the great victory achieved by our people through this heroic operation, which no other country in the world had dared to undertake.

As for the daring operation's impact on the United States, it has taught the U.S. administration an eloquent and unforgettable lesson; namely, that it should stop conspiring against oppressed peoples and understand that this is the age of peoples. If the United States persists in its conspiracies, these peoples will continue to hunt it down until it meets the fate of Nazism.

The United States has also discovered its weakness despite its military might. All its devastating weapons could not do anything in this age with its new values. The United States found out that the weapons in its possession were worth nothing. The age in which the United States could drop atomic bombs on peaceful cities has gone for good. Peoples today are more mature and capable of facing any U.S. stupidity. If the United States takes action against any people, other nations will make it pay for such action. Nations will rise in defense of their brothers elsewhere who are the victim of U.S. aggression.

Perhaps the biggest revelation of this daring operation is U.S. failure to take any economic and military actions. The past few days have proved the failure of all U.S. attempts to suppress the indignation of the masses. This is big proof of the failure of U.S. policy. Therefore, the United States must reconsider its policy and try to deal with peoples rather than do not represent their peoples. The United States must also try to understand the feelings of peoples under its occupation.

The daring embassy operation has made the United States taste the bitterness of occupation and made it recall the days when it was under British occupation. This will make the United States more sensitive to those peoples who are still under U.S. occupation.

'Mediator' Reports on Hostages 'Removal'

AU041059 Vienna KURIER in German 4 Dec 79 p 3 AU

["H.N." report: "Hostages Taken Away'--Austrian 'Mediator' Reports From Tehran"]

[Text] "On Sunday and Monday [2 and 3 December] I was on the U.S. Embassy premises [in Tehran], because I know various people on the Khomeyni committees from my earlier visits, and I can definitely say that only a few of the hostages are still being held there. The others have been taken away." This was stated by the former businessman and controversial "Islamic loner" Khalifa Rasul al-Mahdi, who lives in Vomperberg, Tirol, in a telephone conversation with KURIER from Tehran. "The occupiers are obviously fearing a liberation attempt."

This confirms conjectures that have caused growing concern in the United States in the past few days: For 4 weeks, neither diplomats nor Red Cross representatives nor a U.S. Congressman had seen all 49 hostages. Speculations about a cloak-and-dagger operation were neither denied nor confirmed by the embassy occupiers--"we say only this much: At the slightest alarm we will kill the hostages."

Khalifa Rasul al-Mahdi, speaking about the occupiers of the U.S. Embassy: "They are acting from a purely religious motivation, and Khomeyni himself cannot do anything against them." The outcome of a discussion between the Austrian and the hostage-takers, which allegedly lasted for many hours: "With such people one can no longer negotiate. They do not want to negotiate. For them, there are only two alternatives: Either, the shah is extradited, or they are ready to die together. They are a close, firmly united religious community."

Speculation to the effect that Ayatollah Khomeyni himself has left his headquarters, the holy city of Qom, are rejected as "nonsense" by Khalifa Rasul al-Mahdi over the telephone: "I know that he continues to reside in Qom."

The Austrian had met Khomeyni as early as during the first few weeks of the revolution in Qom.

5 DECEMBER DEVELOPMENTS CONCERNING U.S. EMBASSY

Mo'infar on Caracas Conference

LD050450 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 5 Dec 79 LD

[Text] Mr Ali Akbar Mo'infar, the oil minister, in an interview with the PARS NEWS AGENCY, stated: In the Caracas conference it should be decided that the basis for setting a price should be a currency othern than the dollar.

This issue is now being discussed by OPEC as a whole. The oil minister added: In this conference discussions will be held concerning the price of oil, and the price of oil should be a logical price compatible with other sources of energy.

The oil minister said: In the discussions I had in Saudi Arabia with six of the ministers of the OPEC oil-producing countries formulas and policies were discussed. The final results of these discussions will be presented to the Caracas conference and will be agreed upon. Mr Mo'infar added: Production of 35 million barrels of oil a day is very excessive, and this figure should be reduced and kept at a reasonable level. The countries of the world should realize that these resources belong to our future generations and that we cannot extract our oil cheaply and as much as they want and put it at their disposal. In fact, we must economize in the consumption of oil.

Concerning Iran's assistance to poor countries, he said: First of all, this issue and decisions concerning oil should be reached in the Oil Ministry. What some of my colleagues have said in some of the mass media are purely their own personal views, which deserve to be listened to. However, they are not the decisions of the government and the Revolution Council. If we want to do such a thing [presumably referring to proposals made by some of his colleagues] the other oil-producing countries will protest to us and this is against the interest of all the OPEC countries. Any assistance to the Third World and the poor countries should be done through the OPEC mutual fund.

In this connection, the industrialised countries should have a major role too: Because while 90 percent of the oil is exported to the industrialized countries, only 10 percent is exported to the poor countries. Therefore, both the producing countries and the major countries should assist the poor countries through a fund. Unfortunately, all the excuses and protests are made by the major countries against the producing countries. These objections are mainly raised by the cartels and big oil companies who are mainly American, and not by the poor countries. If we look at the balance sheets of these companies we find high profits, about 200 to 300 percent. Therefore, in fact, it is these companies which are responsible for the increase in the price of oil and, consequently, inflation in prices.

In conclusion, concerning the quality in prices of oil, the oil minister said: At the moment, one cannot claim that in the OPEC countries the price of oil is based on dual pricing. Dual pricing belongs to the past. At the moment, not only the prices not only have gone beyond two prices, but one should say that now the prices are varied and there is a multiplicity of prices. We hope the future policy of OPEC will be such that the present confusion and diversity will end.

Hostages To Be Tried

LD050517 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 5 Dec 79 LD

[Text] Sadeq Qotbzadeh, minister of foreign affairs of our country, in an interview with the paper FIGARO announced that the hostages of the American Embassy in Tehran definitely will be tried. In this interview, while emphasizing that now it is America's turn to act, he said: Iran cannot do anything more than what she has already done in order to break this deadlock. Qotbzadeh was asked: But what can Jimmy Carter, the U.S. President, do? He replied: He should return the deposed shah. It was stated: But Carter cannot do such a thing and you know this very well. Qotbzadeh adds: Then this is Carter's problem. The minister of foreign affairs of our country was asked: Will opening the dossiers on the wealth of the deposed shah reduce the tension? He replied: This action can probably reduce the tension, but it will not solve it.

In this interview, Qotbzadeh described the relations between Iran and the Soviet Union as normal and said: We have told the Soviet officials that we are not asking for any kind of Soviet interference in our internal affairs, even in the case of military operations by America; and we have emphasized this. We have made it quite clear that they have no right to take any action before we request it. Once again, Qotbzadeh denied that the charge d'affaires and two other diplomats are free to leave Iran and said: There has been a misunderstanding on this issue. They have committed some offenses and, therefore, as soon as leaving the premises of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs they will be delivered to the hands of justice.

Stake in European Plant Frozen

NC050715 Paris AFP in English 0708 GMT 5 Dec 79 NC

[Text] Paris, Dec 5 (AFP)--Iran's 10 percent stake in the European Eurodif plant intended to produce enriched uranium has been frozen at the company's request. Following Iran's decision not to go ahead with its nuclear power programme, reliable sources said here. Difficulties between Iran and Eurodif arose in June when Iran ceased paying its share of joint investment costs totalling some $5 billion for construction and development of a uranium enrichment plant.

In addition Iran has cancelled orders for nuclear plants placed in West Germany and France, the sources noted.

It was clear from this Iran would not fulfil its commitment to take 10 percent of production from the new tricastin enrichment plant from 1981, they said.

This development is expected to affect the profitability of the plant as by 1982 it is scheduled to produce enough enriched uranium to supply about 100 power stations--far more than the market will need for some years because of a slowdown in nuclear power programmes in several countries.

Eurodif, which has made no comment on the matter, obtained a Paris court ruling in October freezing the Iranian holding until a compromise solution is found.

Council To Be Terminated

NC050840 Paris AFP in English 0836 GMT 5 Dec 79 NC

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 5 (AFP)--Iran's Revolution Council will be scrapped after a new government is formed following legislative and presidential elections in February, Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashem Rafsanjani, the acting interior minister and a council member, said here today.

The two elections would be held with the revolution's first anniversary, February 10 and 11, BAMDAD newspaper quoted him as saying.

There are to be 270 deputies, he said.

Calls To Arms Reiterated

LD051040 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0845 GMT 5 Dec 79 LD

[Unattributed commentary from the "Workers' Program"]

[Excerpt] Muslim people, get armed. This is the clear and loud cry of the followers of Islam. This is the imam's historic order. This is the way to our freedom from the clutches of imperialism. This is the way to save our oppressed people from the yokes of despotism, colonialism and exploitation. All the individuals in the nation must pick up arms. Everybody must be exposed to military training. All must become united and aim their guns at imperialism and its leader--America.

This is the will of our people and this is the imam's order when he cries: Your forces must now be united in one way; your thoughts and physical forces all must head in the same direction. If you want to serve Islam, in addition to our Islamic problems, we must deal with the burden of confronting America. Today if our forces are dispersed it will serve America. Now our enemy is America and all our arms must be pointed toward this enemy. If we exercise complacency, our country will be exterminated, too. We must not exercise complacency; we must gather our forces and direct our cries against America. If you are going to have demonstrations, demonstrate against America. Arm your forces and learn military skills. Teach your friends and teach all the common people military training. In a militarized country everyone should be a soldier and have military training.

Comment on Yamani's Walkout

LD051242 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 5 Dec 79 LD

[Text] At the OAPEC meeting which took place yesterday in Kuwait, Zaki Yamani, Saudi Arabian petroleum minister, after hearing statements made by Libyan and Syrian representatives about OAPEC oil ministers organizing a common front alined with Iran's struggle against American imperialism, left the meeting in protest.

Mr Mo'infar told our correspondent today: I have also heard this news, and Mr Zaki Yamani's statement about OAPEC being an economic organisation not a political organization is nothing new to us. The deposed shah also used to claim that Iran did not have official political relations with Israel, while directing the flow of oil toward Israel, and believed politics had no connection with economics. And this was at a time when, with the cooperation of the Israeli espionage organization, he was sacrificing our brothers and sisters in torture chambers. Therefore we, the Iranians, are always hearing these sorts of claims. And it is nothing new to us if anybody says politics is separate from economics. But it is surprising that Mr Zaki Yamani, who also had a knowledge of economics, and who from a political point of view has been the sole controller of OPEC for years, should separate economics from politics. With this reasoning perhaps he should consider the export of oil to Israel as an apolitical matter, which has no relation to the political and religious union between Arab and Muslim countries. Anyway, from our point of view there is no economic problem which is separate from political demands.

Bazargan on Army Discipline

LD051132 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 5 Dec 79 LD

[Text] Eng Mehdi Bazargan, a member of the Revolutionary Council, who addressed personnel of the ground forces of the Iranian Islamic Republic Army, stressed that the spirit of discipline must prevail in the armed forces. He said:

Our army today is no longer merely a national army but a force in the path of God and in the service of the people, the oppressed and Islam, and it should be so. The army personnel are duty-bound by religion to obey the commanders appointed by the imam, to raise whatever they deem necessary with the commander concerned. This should also apply to government agencies and private enterprises.

Comment on UN Resolution

LD051123 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 5 Dec 79 LD

[Text] The fifth session of the UN Security Council began its work on the crisis in Iran-U.S. relations at 0046 Tehran time today. Following this session [as heard] the Security Council issued a resolution, certain explanations concerning some of the provisions of which are deemed necessary:

1. Although the resolution refers to the UN secretary general's request to convene a Security Council session in accordance with Article 99 of the UN Charter and to his concern that the existing conflicts between Iran and America might have grave consequences for international peace and security, nevertheless the Security Council refers to the existing situation in the context of Chapter 6 of the UN Charter--a chapter concerned with resolving conflicts between governments through peaceful means and it does not regard the situation as being within the context of Chapter 7 of the charter. The logical conclusion derived from this is that the demands of the Security Council in the context of Chapter 6 of the charter are not mandatory, that they are nothing more than a recommendation and that, in principle, this resolution is in no way tantamount to a condemnation of Iran.

2. Although the resolution asks Iran to release the hostages as soon as possible and to resolve its disputes with America through peaceful means, the reference to duties and responsibilities of governments as laid down by the charter in connection with refraining from resorting to force or threat of force is tantamount to indirectly warning America against a military threat or an action which might jeopardize Iran's territorial integrity or its political independence. At the same time, the resolution has left the way open for continuing efforts within the framework of the UN Charter and through the good offices of the UN secretary general for peaceful resolution of the existing disputes. It is further deemed necessary to explain that, thanks to Iran's diplomatic efforts over recent days and in light of the depth of these efforts have been directed, the UN Security Council has also taken cognizance of Iran's interests in this regard and it was precisely because of this that Resolution 458--I beg your pardon--Resolution 457 regarding the existing crisis in the relations between Iran and America is not only not tantamount to a condemnation of Iran but it is merely a recommendation that states ought to resolve their disputes through peaceful means.

NVOI REVIEWS SECURITY COUNCIL EVENTS, QUOTES KENNEDY

TA042013 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1730 GMT 4 Dec 79 TA

[Unattributed commentary: "U.S. Policy From the Viewpoint of Americans"]

[Text] Dear compatriots: The UN Security Council is continuing with its reviews of the critical situation which has arisen in relations between our country and the United States. In last night's meeting of the council, the participants in the debate expressed concern regarding the plans of the United States to resolve this problem through military means.

According to world news agencies, 21 warships of the U.S. Navy are at present deployed in the vicinity of our country's southern coast. Among these warships are aircraft carriers on whose decks 350 planes are stationed. The New York TIMES writes: At present 4 U.S. aircraft carriers are deployed at such a distance from Tehran that the U.S. can hit Tehran from the decks of these vessels, and approximately after one week the number of such U.S. warships which can have Tehran within their range will reach five. The planes stationed in these vessels are able to destroy the whole of Iran, and at the same time these attacks can be launched either from the Mediterranean Sea region or the Arabian Sea. These were the exact words of the New York TIMES.

While noting the dangerous situation which has arisen, the speakers at last night's session of the UN Security Council stressed: The threat which has been directed toward the world's peace and security must be averted by negotiation and through peaceful means. In the draft resolution which was presented by Nigeria and other member countries of the nonalined movement, the necessity of such an attitude was emphasized, these countries believe that the Security Council must above all confirm the principle of resolving disputes through peaceful means and avoiding resort to military threats in resolving international disputes. In the view of these countries the Security Council must at the same time also reaffirm its support of the principle of noninterference in the internal affairs of countries, and unconditional respect for (?international rights) and diplomatic immunity.

In this [word indistinct], according to reports by the centers of the world's news agencies, it is not clear why in the draft of this resolution there is no mention of establishing a commission that should review the issue of the trampling of human rights in Iran during the period of the deposed shah's domination. The Kuwaiti representative insisted on the establishment of such a commission during the previous session of the Security Council. It is said that the draft resolution will be debated at the session of the Security Council which is expected to be held today.

In New York, the remarks by UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim on CBS television have attracted attention. Kurt Waldheim declared that his repeated telephone discussions with Mr Qotzbadeh, our country's foreign minister, have given him the impression that the leaders of Iran are interested in resolving the crisis in relations with the United States through negotiations. It is stated in political circles that this fact by itself is evidence of the sense of responsibility in the attitude of our country's leaders [words indistinct] which has grave perils for peace and security not only in our region but in the world.

No doubt the UN organization should consider the legal charges of the Iranian nation against the deposed shah. [words indistinct] American official who at present have been criticized by the Americans themselves for their support of the deposed shah should pay attention to this statement. It suffices to consider the remarks by one of America's prominent political figures, namely, Mr Edward Kennedy. In his remarks, he stressed that the shah was at the head of one of the cruelest regimes in the history of mankind, and during the most difficult circumstances he resorted terror against his nation and violated human rights. He added, how can the United States be exonerated from granting refuge to an individual who wishes to live in this country with billions of plundered money from Iran?

REFERENDUM FIGURES RELEASED FOR TEHRAN, SUBURBS

LD050427 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 5 Dec 79 LD

[Announcement No 28 of the Central Supervisory Council of the constitutional referendum of the Islamic Republic of Iran--read by announcer]

[Text] In His exalted name. The Central Supervisory Council of the referendum announces the results of counting the boxes in 1,631 voting districts throughout the city of Tehran, which have been counted by a group of sisters and brothers who are the members of the Islamic society of the Iran statistics center, as follows: The total number of the voters in Tehran was 2,256,359, out of which 2,225,493 gave a yes vote and 30,866 a no vote. Also the total number of votes in Tehran's districts was 85,170, out of which 85,069 gave a yes vote and 101 gave a no vote. The total number of the votes in Tehran and districts was 2,341,529, out of which 2,310,562 gave a yes vote and 30,967 gave a no vote. As a result, 98.68 percent of the voters gave a yes vote.

[Signed] The Central Supervisory Council of the referendum of the Constitution for the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Further Report on Referendum

TA041615 London BBC World Service in English 1500 GMT 4 Dec 79 TA

[From "Radio Newsreel"]

[Text] Iranian officials say there has been a strong yes vote in the referendum on the country's new constitution. They say the turnout has been even higher than that from the previous referendum in March. However, Tim Llewellyn, who is in Tehran, says that only initial results are in so far, many independent observers feel the turnout may have been rather disappointing.

[Begin Llewellyn recording] The result of this referendum was never in doubt, and it is true that in many areas there has been a good response. However, it is not seen as being the overwhelming response that Ayatollah Khomeyni and his supporters would have liked. The radio and television have constantly been urging people right up to the last minute to get out and vote, with a desperation that almost spoke for itself. And in many cases mobile voting booths scoured the streets dredging up voters.

In Kordestan almost everyone boycotted the polls. And in Baluchistan and Azarbayjan, in the southeast and northwest respectively, there were massive protests against the new constitution and clashes between opponents of local authorities. The authorities themselves are blaming leftist and nationalist disruptive elements; but it is known for instance, that in Azarbayjan, for instance, many Azarbaijanis were particularly incensed about what they said was Iranian television's misrepresentation to them of the views of their highly respected moderate leader Ayatollah Shari'at-Madari. He opposes the constitution, but it was apparently made to appear that he favored it. And now, many Azerbaijanis, who voted yes on the strength of that, are calling for the return of their ballot papers. [end recording]

Referendum Results

LD041830 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 4 Dec 79 LD

[Excerpts] The counting of votes in the referendum on the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran continues in various parts of the country. In a telephone conversation with the Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran a few minutes ago, Mr Nurbakhsh, director of state divisions and responsible official in charge of the election central headquarters of the Interior Ministry, gave the latest results of the counting of votes in various parts of the country as follows: [begin Nurbakhsh recording]

Mashhad: 607,334 voted yes and 3,280 voted no.
Ilam: 62,088 voted yes and 25 voted no.
Gonbad-e Kavus: 108,973 voted yes and 122 voted no.
Khoy: 138,356 voted yes and 302 voted no.
Qazvin: 296,564 voted yes and 568 voted no.
Tabriz: 189,063 voted yes and 1,880 voted no.
Masjede-e Soleyman: 52,472 voted yes and 182 voted no.
Kermanshah: 285,888 voted yes and 1,545 voted no.
Shiraz: 363,636 voted yes and 3,302 voted no.
Esfahan: 610,286 voted yes and 3,517 voted no.

Of course, the statistics you have been given are the preliminary results of the referendum in the various provincial towns and the announcement of the final result of the referendum on the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran will probably take a week to be made.

BAMDAD REPORTS ON NEGOTIATIONS WITH KURDS

OW040815 Beijing XINHUA in English 0715 GMT 4 Dec 79 OW

[Text] Tehran, December 3 (XINHUA)--Iran's Kurdish religious and political leader Ezzeddin Hoseyni has left Mahabad, saying he was worried about the peace negotiations between his tribe and the government, the paper BAMDAD here reported.

In a letter to the government goodwill mission, which has come to Mahabad for talks with him in accordance with an order by religious leader Imam Khomeyni, Hoseyni said one condition for the resumption of the negotiations would be an official invitation to him to attend talks to be held at an exact time and place.

He said all the political parties and organizations in Kordestan had decided to have a single representation in the talks with the government which, however, had announced it would not recognize most of the organizations.

It was reported that Hoseyni issued a three-point statement during the talks indicating the Kurdish hope that the talks would bring autonomy to the Kurdish minority in Iran.

Hoseyni came out of his hiding place in the Kurdish mountains last week to his home in Mahabad, and met on November 28 with Daryush Foruhar, Iran's state minister and a member of the government mission.

The Kurdish Democratic Party announced a cease-fire on November 26 so as to have talks with the government.

Telecommunications Tower Attack

JN050931 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0910 GMT 5 Dec 79 JN

[Text] Tehran, 5 December--A telecommunications tower in the area of (?Karand) in Iran's Kordestan Province came under attack last night. This is the second such attack in a month.

It was announced here today that the attackers exchanged fire with the gendarmes and government guards until midnight. The extent of damage and casualties is still unknown.

Withdrawal Deadline

NC041205 Paris AFP in English 1153 GMT 4 Dec 79 NC

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 4 (AFP)--The Kurdish Democratic Party today gave Islamic Revolution Guards a five-day deadline to pull out of Iranian Kordestan.

In a telephone interview with AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, party Secretary General 'Abd al-Rahman Qasemlu said the Islamic militia posted in the region should have withdrawn by Sunday, five days before a cease-fire between Kurds and government is due to expire.

He said his party decreed the cease-fire on November 25 to facilitate negotiations with the Iranian authorities and to back "Iran's fight against imperialist plots".

Revolution Guards had already left certain Kurdish towns including Bukan 100 kms (65 miles) southeast of the Kurdish capital of Mahabad, from where Mr. Qasemlu was speaking.

The party leader did not specify what action was planned if the militia remained in Kordestan.

Asked what stage negotiations had reached between the party and a governmental mission charged with solving the Kurdish crisis, he said they had "not yet begun" but that the delegation was expected at Mahabad today to submit proposals.

Mr. Qasemlu complained that the three-man mission was not acting in a serious manner and had not proposed any concrete plans aimed at meeting Kurdish demands for increased autonomy.

"They have been coming and going for a month without making any propositions," he said.

The party leader refused to say whether he held out any hope for a settlement to the Kurdish crisis.

He acknowledged there were signs of reconciliation efforts by the Tehran authorities, but claimed certain leading figures did not want an agreement with the Kurds to be reached.

QOTBZADEH FAVORS FRIENDLY TIES WITH JAPAN

OW050014 Tokyo KYODO in English 0007 GMT 5 Dec 79 OW

[Text] Tehran, Dec 4, KYODO--Foreign Minister Sadeq Qotbzadeh of Iran said Tuesday that his country wants to promote friendly ties with Japan further in the future.

He said this when Japanese Ambassador Tsutomu Wada paid a courtesy call on the Iranian foreign minister who assumed his post last week. Qotbzadeh was quoted as telling Wada that Iran considers that its relations with Japan are extremely important. Wada told newsmen after the meeting that no concrete problems, such as Iran's supply of crude oil to Japan, were discussed at the meeting.

3 IRAQI CITIZENS REPORTEDLY CROSS BORDER, DEFECT

JN041801 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 4 Dec 79 JN

[Text] Three Iraqi citizens, an officer and two engineers, defected to Iran after crossing the Iranian border at Dehloran, in the southwest of Iran.

ANTIREVOLUTIONARY PAPERS REPORTED PUBLISHED IN EUROPE

Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 25 Nov 79 p 10 WA

[Text] For the past 2 weeks, IRAN AZAD, an antirevolutionary newspaper published in France by the deposed shah's agents, has been printed in Persian. This version, published weekly on Wednesdays, is sold for 3 francs an issue. According to the report of our reporter in Paris, the French version is being published by Javad Alamir Davalou, while the Persian version is being published by Houshang Nahavandi. The deposed shah provides the budget for this newspaper. Nahavandi, in the first issue of IRAN AZAD, said that soon after his return to Iran he will publish the newspaper as an official paper.

In addition to the above newspaper, a month ago agents of the disbanded SAVAK began publishing another newspaper in Europe entitled SANGAR. Its address, for security purposes, has been given as P.O. Box 148, Cairo, Egypt.

Our reporter writes that recently [former Prime Minister] Bakhtiar has increased his activities and every once in a while give interviews and speeches in various places. Last week, he gave a speech in one of the famous schools in Paris. For some time now he has been making cassettes of his speeches and has been distributing them among Iranians living outside of Iran. His son, who works in the French Police Department, is in charge of examining and checking the files of Iranians coming to France and who are seeking residency permits. Bakhtiar, by aiding the people around him, has encouraged them to give him assistance with the publication of various newspapers.

POLITICAL GROUPS EXPLAIN CRITICISMS OF CONSTITUTION

LD041323 Tehran BAMDAD in Persian 28 Nov 79 pp 1, 3 LD

[Unattributed report: "Political Groups and Parties Clarify Their Position in Rejecting the Constitution: Jama: We Accept This Constitution During the Lifetime of the Imam Khomeyni"]

[Excerpts] With the referendum drawing near, political parties and groups have announced their views on the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The National Democratic Party of Iran has announced their views on the constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The National Democratic Party of Iran has announced that the provisions of the Constitution reveal a monopolistic approach, that it did not participate in the first referendum because it had not wanted to vote for the ambiguous and vague term "the Islamic republic" that "since the ruling authorities broke their promise to convene the constituent assembly we have refrained from participating in elections and announced that we do not consider anything approved by such an assembly [the Council of Experts] to be that of the nation's representatives. In short, the National Democratic Party of Iran will not take part in the referendum to be held on 11 and 12 Azar [2 and 3 December]."

The revolutionary movement of the Muslim people's of Iran, Jama, published an 8-point statement in which it announced that "as a constitution for the future government of the Islamic Republic of Iran it is imperfect and inadequate, and we consider it entirely out of keeping with what the people of Iran expect. We announce explicitly that this constitution will bring us up against numerous difficulties in the not-too-distant future. Thus, because of the leadership of the imam of the nation, Khomeyni, whose role in anti-imperialist struggles is clearer than the sun, we shall participate in the elections and return a 'yes' vote for the imam and his anti-imperialist leadership, on condition that this is a vote for the imam, his leadership and the constitution during his lifetime only, and we hope that a revision of the constitution will be ordered soon."

In their statement, the New Movement of the people of Iran makes the following announcement:

"We ask the people of Iran not to take part in the referendum and to boycott it; this is the most dictatorial constitution to have been submitted to a referendum in the present age. It means war against all progressive and laboring forces, the workers and anti-imperialist elements."

The Movement of Struggling Muslims adopts a critical position as regards participation in the referendum. Their statement reads as follows:

"The Constitution ratified by the Assembly of Experts contains principles of which some are progressive, some sectarian, and yet others opposed to these two; it must be revised and perfected."

In its statement the Central Council of the Association of Kurdish Residents in Tehran raised questions relating to the issue of autonomy. It also discusses the monolithic advance of the nation of Iran, the necessity of drawing up a constitution which will preserve the principles of the revolution, and raises the issue of autonomy in Kordestan, noting that before the rights to autonomy of the peoples and nationalities of Iran are recognized the constitution as proposed by the Assembly of Experts cannot be accepted.

The Socialist Workers Party, the "Fighting Front", announced in their statement, which reached BAMDAD last night, that "we shall go to the referendum with a 'no' vote on 11 Azar since we believe that in this constitution no particular attention has been paid to the workers, to private ownership, land tenure, the right of the [minority] nations, political rule and religious freedom."

PURGE OF ETTELA'AT EDITORIAL STAFF TO BE CONDUCTED

LD041407 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 28 Nov 79 p 15 LD

[PARS NEWS AGENCY report: "ETTELA'AT Organization Chief says: Editorial Board of ETTELA'AT Newspaper To Be Purged"]

[Excerpts] Tehran--In a discussion with the PARS NEWS AGENCY Hoseyn Bonakdar, chief of the ETTELA'AT organization, stated: Within the next 2 months the editorial board of ETTELA'AT is to be purged, and in accordance with the Revolution Council plan, ETTELA'AT will be run by a council like other organizations.

Clarifying this, he added: "On the editorial board and in other departments there are groups at work drawing their salaries who, on the basis of evidence made available to us by the prime minister's office, are SAVAKists and must be purged. If they object to their dismissal we shall in the first instance submit the documentary evidence to the staff of ETTELA'AT and then disclose their identities to the public. We shall of course try not to harm their families when we expel them and we shall pay them everything we owe them according to law.

ISLAMIC REPUBLICAN PARTY SPOKESMAN INTERVIEWED

NC040940 Beirut AS-SAFIR in Arabic 30 Nov 79 p 10 NC

[Interview conducted by Basim as-Sab' in Tehran with Dr Hassan Ayat, official spokesman of the Iranian Islamic Republican Party, member of the party Central committee and secretary of the Council of Experts--date of interview not given]

[Excerpts] Question: After 10 months of the revolution's victory, what have you accomplished on the level of consolidating the revolutionary authority and what are the rifts the revolution is facing or has faced?

Answer: It has been established so far that we can gain more and lose less. However, the revolution's gains can be summed up as follows:

1. The overthrow of the monarchical regime, which was one of the strongest allies of the United States.
2. The expulsion of the U.S. advisers.
3. The confiscation of the property of the capitalists in the country.
4. The establishment and consolidation of the Islamic Republic through a public referendum and at a high percentage--estimated at 98 percent.
5. The drafting of a new constitution for the country based on Islamic jurisprudence.
6. The disclosure of many symbols who had their influence and position in the ranks of the people.
7. The establishment of relations with the Palestinian revolution, the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, although this relationship could become stronger and more serious and effective than it is now.
8. The definition of Iran as a base for the Islamic nation opposing colonialism and imperialism.
9. The abrogation of the bilateral treaties and the CENTO treaty.
10. The establishment of some form of revolutionary relations with some of the world liberation movements.

The rifts can be summed up as follows:

1. The tension which occurred in Kordestan after the revolution. It could have been avoided.

2. The smuggling out of much wealth to abroad. This could have also been avoided.

3. The granting of some powers and facilities to some symbols of the defunct regime instead of putting them on trial.

It could also be said that we have not lost much. Indeed our loss is that we have not managed to achieve more gains. We could have done so and we could have cooperated on a wider scale with the world liberation movements so as to create many varied problems for the United States in the Islamic countries and elsewhere through information activities and other available means with the aim of transferring the battle with the United States to outside the country instead of letting it explode inside Iran alone.

Question: Don't you believe that these rifts are the result of practices on the level of the leadership?

Answer: The Iranian revolution was a great strength in the hands of Imam Khomeyni. The strength of this revolution can be summed up in the words "the leadership and the people and the linkage between them."

This strength managed to crush that giant regime in a very short time on 11 February 1979. However, this strength was not put to full use. It was my opinion that the borders should have been closed indefinitely as of the first day of the revolution's victory. The property of all those who had connections or cooperated with the past regime should then have been confiscated and they should have been put on trial. Their trial should have been public and revolutionary to mete out just punishment. The radio and television media should have carried out their role against all types of imperialism and against its agents. The government should have started construction projects in Kordestan and Baluchestan. In the meantime, the enemies of the revolution in both districts should have been dealt with firmly. The newspapers which were issued during the past regime should have been confiscated and fully controlled.

PAPER CITES REASONS FOR BANI SADR REPLACEMENT

LD041415 London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 30 Nov 79 p 1 LD

[Hasan Laqis report]

[Excerpt] Tehran, ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT--High-level government sources have told ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the ruling Revolution Council has decided to stick to its stand of demanding the return of the shah and his money until the U.S. administration backs down from its stand of refusing to enter into any dialog before the U.S. Embassy hostages in Tehran are released.

Revolution Council Secretary General Mohammad Beheshti has stated that the United States should take the first step provided it is not conditional upon the release of the hostages.

Beheshti told ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the change of Foreign Ministry officials reflects this insistence. It has been decided that Abolhasan Bani Sadr should manage the economy only because the Revolution Council believes that the battle with the United States would in the end be an economic and not a military one.

At a recent meeting of the Revolution Council, Bani Sadr lost the Foreign Ministry post and Sadeq Qotbzadeh was appointed foreign minister. In the first statement he made, Qotbzadeh announced his determination to follow up the question of hostages according to Imam Ayatollah Khomeyni's instructions--to the letter.

Arab diplomatic sources in Tehran have stated that Bani Sadr lost the Foreign Ministry--while retaining his other ministerial posts--because he tried to find a compromise regarding the hostages issue. It was he who was behind the idea of releasing the women and the blacks and the idea of going to the United Nations. What is more important is that he had called for the formation of an international committee to investigate Iran's complaints against the shah. It appears that Khomeyni did not approve of these steps.

Despite the fact that Qotbzadeh has not yet announced his position about going to the United Nations, the tendency in Tehran is clearly against this. Thousands marched in the streets of Tehran yesterday "to denounce in advance" any resolution the Security Council might adopt on the crisis with the United States.

A 12-point resolution issued by the demonstrators and read out in liberation square outside the capital on the airport road, emphasized that any resolution adopted by the Security Council or "any other organizations of this sort" will not affect the Iranian people's will at all if it is against "our interests."

The resolution asserted that the Security Council is nothing other than "a toy in the hands of the great powers," and that the Iranian people "do not expect these organizations to issue anything that is in harmony with the interests of the deprived peoples."

AYATOLLAH KHALKHALI ON POSSIBLE 'PARDON' OF SPIES

LD050809 Madrid YA in Spanish 30 Nov 79 p 10 LD

[Jose V. Colchero interview of Qom with Iranian Islamic Revolution Council member Ayatollah Khalkhali: "We Will Make Cemetery for Marines if United States Attacks Us"--date not given]

[Excerpts] Qom--Ayatollah Khalkhali, member of the Islamic Revolution Council and Khomeyni's political "left-hand man," embodies the Jacobin spirit of this revolution. If Robespierre caused heads to roll on the guillotine, Khalkhali has not been reluctant to send opponents to the firing squads. Nobody has signed so many sentences of death by shooting. He does not disguise his cruelty. He himself regards himself as the "Eichmann of the Iranian Revolution."

Proceeding to speak about Iran, he specified, seeking to underline the force of his words: "My opinion is that of the imam--that is, of Khomeyni. Carter, with the help of Kissinger and Rockefeller, has given the shah hospitality in the United States and does not wish to hand him over to Iran. During his foul reign, the shah killed 160,000 young people and stole billions of dollars of public money. That is why we wish to bring the person guilty of all this back to Iran and try him before a court. Why does Carter wish to help a man who has done all this? We know that a country's embassy is like that country's territory, but the U.S. Embassy here was not an embassy but a nest of spies; and, in addition to spies, there was a set of couriers, and it organized aid for those opposing the Islamic Republic from abroad, those whom we have been unable to execute in the Islamic courts. We have found documents in the embassy which demonstrate that the U.S. diplomatic mission was a center of espionage of the shah."

"If Carter hands over the shah, we will pardon the U.S. spies whom we have detained and return them to the United States.

If the shah dies in the United States and the money that he took is not returned to us, we will bring all the embassy hostages before an Islamic court. The opponents of the Iranian Revolution were in power at the start of the revolution, they had almost 500,000 armed men, and SAVAK--the political police--comprised 300,000 members. In addition, there were 40,000 U.S. military advisers and 12,000 Israelis. The people had no weapons and defeated this entire force, urged on by Khomeyni--the imam of Islam. Now, in addition to the imam of Islam, we are armed. We are not afraid of the United States coming with its ships, because the Seventh Fleet could not prevent the U.S. defeat in Vietnam, Laos or Cambodia. We are waiting for the United States to come here, and we will make a cemetery for the Marines with the hands of the Islamic young people."

Khalkhali explained to us the treatment which he would mete out to the shah's family. "We would kill the shah, Farah Diba and Farah's mother, and also the shah's sister, Ashraf. We would also kill General Ovesi, who was military governor of Tehran in the days of the shah (now in the United States), and Palizban (governor of Kordestan in the days of the shah, who is now said to be in Iraq, inciting the Kurds). Of course, we would also execute Ema; and Azari, prime ministers of the shah when the revolution began, and, in addition, Bakhtiar, the shah's last prime minister."

"We would execute the shah like Hoveyda, but publicly. I would have him killed with a shot through the temple. I would sentence him, and somebody--any of my aides--would shoot him through the temple. I would not kill him myself. I have killed nobody with my own hands, because I am the judge of the court and merely sign the sentence."

Commandos To Kill

I asked whether he wishes to eliminate the shah's entire family, as the Russian Revolution did in the case of the tsar, and he replied that he does not and that the shah's brothers are in Iran and have thanked him through the newspapers for the work which he is carrying out. He asserted that he does not seek to kill the shah's children, either, because he does not fear the restoration of the monarchy--something which he deems impossible.

Khalkhali acknowledged that he sent commandos of the Iranian Islamic Revolution to Mexico to kill the shah. There are also commandos elsewhere in the world with the same objective; he declined to say how many, but implied that there are a good many and added that he has also sent commandos to Britain to kill Bakhtiar.

The Jacobin ayatollah assured us that the Iranian Revolution is aiding all Islamic Revolutions worldwide--the Eritrean revolution, the revolution of the Philippine Muslims, the revolution in Afghanistan, the POLISARIO, and so forth. I asked Khalkhali about relations with the Shi'ites in Soviet Asia, and he replied: "All the imams of the mosques there are giving lessons on the Koran. Iranian ambassador to the USSR Mokri has informed me that all the Shi'ite religious authorities in the Soviet Union wish to visit Qom to see Imam Khomeyni and that Iranian ulemas should go to the Soviet Union to visit the ulemas of central Asia. Although the Soviet Government is not religious, it is satisfied with the Iranian Revolution and creates no problems for the Muslim population."

I asked Khalkhali, as a final question, whether the Shi'ites of Soviet central Asia--of Bukhara, Samarkand, and so forth--who used to form part of the Persian Empire, could some day come to constitute a state with Iran. He said that this is possible--that he hopes so--but he does not wish to speak further about this matter at present.

BANI SADR SEES U.S. 'PREPARED TO SACRIFICE HOSTAGES'

LD041119 [Editorial report LD] Paris L'HUMANITE in French 1 December publishes on page 7 an 800-word Dominique Bari Tehran dispatch reporting recent events including Iranian Foreign Minister Qotzbadeh's 30 November press conference. The report notes statements made to "a group of French journalists" by former Foreign Minister Bani Sadr:

"For his part, former chief of Iranian diplomacy Bani Sadr, who is still minister of economy and finance, said during a talk with a group of French journalists this morning that 'the United States is prepared to sacrifice the hostages. It is constantly provoking us to force us to take the most radical line and to adopt an extremely hostile attitude. That enables them to isolate Iran not only from the Western countries but also from the Islamic countries. This crisis can only have a political solution.' According to Mr Bani Sadr 'we must act quickly. That is why I wanted to take part in the Security Council meeting,' he added. Mr Bani Sadr, who will officially open his files on Iran's economy tomorrow, has promised to publish documents this week proving the corruption of the shah and his family. These will be new additions to a file which is already very thick."

STUDENT LEADER DISCUSSES SHAH LEAVING U.S.

LD031615 Paris LE MONDE in French 1 Dec 79 p 3 LD

[Eric Rouleau dispatch: "Iran Hopes To End the Escalation"]

[Text] Tehran--"In absolute terms, and if we were to discount our public opinion, I would suggest releasing the hostages in exchange for which the United States would restore the shah's fortune to the Iranian state." Mr Sadeq Qotbzadeh, the new chief of Iranian diplomacy, made that statement to us in reply to the question: "What will you do if the shah leaves New York for a country other than Iran?"

The Revolution Council, of which Mr Qotbzadeh is a member, debated that question on the evening of Thursday, 29 November, without managing to define its position. Mexico's decision not to accept the former sovereign gives an unexpected respite to the Iranian leaders, who were in an extremely difficult position. How were they going to continue their campaign against the United States if their extradition demand no longer had any object?

What were they going to do with the hostages? Put them on trial for espionage? That would outrage world public opinion even more without leading to any compromise with Washington.

Mr Qotbzadeh continued: "There is no rational solution to this problem. Our public is angry and rightly so. Theoretically Imam Khomeyni could order the occupiers of the U.S. Embassy to release the hostages. However, the occupiers enjoy immense popularity in the country. Therefore we are obliged to negotiate with them. Moreover I intend to go and see them this Friday evening (30 November) to explain our dilemma to them."

We went to the U.S. Embassy before the chief of Iranian diplomacy and we were granted an interview by Ayatollah Khomeyni, who is the Islamic students' appointed spokesman. In fact, the written questions put to him were submitted to the committee assembled in an adjoining room before the religious leader could give us the answers. The students are clearly following current international events closely and are drawing up their own policy. Copies of LE MONDE were lying on a table. Passages in LE MONDE articles were underlined with notes in the margins.

The Students' Position

Unlike Imam Khomeyni, Ayatollah Khomeyni did not hesitate to take the European nine and France to task, referring to their recent stances on the hostages affair. He said categorically that the captives will not be released before the shah is returned to Iran; they will be tried for espionage and if a U.S. attack is launched they will be executed. However our interlocutor added in conclusion: "However, killing the hostages is just one of the options which the students have set."

[Question] What would happen to the U.S. detainees if the shah were to leave the United States for good?

The situation would become more serious, the students' spokesman said in substance. It is already intolerable that asylum and protection should be given to a criminal; helping him flee to escape justice would be tantamount to a declaration of war. "Iran would never again restore any relations with the United States, you understand," Ayatollah Khomeyni stressed.

Therefore it is easier to understand Kmam Khomeyni's decision to forbid his representatives to attend the Secruity Council meeting. Mr Qotbzadeh told us that he will not go to New York. "Mr Kurt Waldheim," he explained, "rejected our request for the Security Council to be convened but he deemed it right to accept that of the United States. That has made the students and the Revolution Council distrustful of a body which ought to have been strictly neutral." However the chief of Iranian diplomacy hopes that "the misunderstanding will shortly be cleared up." "Iran hopes to end the escalation," he continued. In that connection he welcomed the latest statements made by President Carter, "who seems to rule out, at least for the moment, a U.S. military intervention." "We hope that Jimmy Carter will resolutely take the path of detente; that will help us to find a solution; if he does not Iranian opinion will not understand and the Islamic students will remain inflexible."

"Our Margin For Maneuver is Extremely Narrow"

Mr Qotbzadeh seems determined to contribute to the desired detente. "No decision has been taken on the question of trying the hostages and I do not think the trials will take place in the near future," he stated. For his part, he intends to pursue his efforts to persuade the students to authorize the ambassadors posted in Tehran to meet with the detainees regularly. Meanwhile, this Friday evening he will suggest to the students that they should allow Mr Louis Pettiti, president of the Paris barristers (barristers President Pettiti, whom he questioned, told us late this Friday morning that he had not yet been told of this mission but was prepared to accept it "in the interests of conciliation and a peaceful solution--LE MONDE editor's note) to visit the hostages "as soon as possible."

The private remarks made by Mr Qotbzadeh and other leaders confirm the impression that the U.S. Embassy occupiers are exercizing autonomous political power. "Our margin for maneuver is extremely narrow," the chief of diplomacy complained. "Do you know what some of my colleagues called the Foreign Ministry? The abattoir...." Nonetheless, like this predecessors Mr Yazdi and Mr Bani Sadr, Mr Qotbzadeh hopes to "survive" the test. For that he is counting on support he hopes to be able to obtain in Europe and France especially. Of course he is not satisfied with the Paris government's "reserved attitude"--nor with that of Moscow--from which he expects respect." "We are in a position to establish very close relations in all spheres with France, which enjoys a great deal of sympathy in our country," he told us before adding, "We are prepared to liquidate the financial dispute separating our two countries provided French enterprises give up demanding the literal application of contracts signed under the old regime in conditions of which we are all aware." Mr Giscard d'Estaing, he thinks, should have made a gesture toward Iran: "Freeze" the assets of the shah and members of his family in France for "he would thereby do justice to the Iranian people plundered by the Pahlavi dynasty.

In the padded silence of his office, at the top of the television skyscraper, the chief of Iranian diplomacy spoke of financial compromise, de-escalation and detente. In the street it is the voice of the people which intones against U.S. imperialism and demands the shah's unconditional extradition. Two paths and two worlds are distinguished or superimposed to give the picture of a country in the throes of what looks very like an acute attack of schizophrenia.

DELEGATION IN PARIS URGES U.S. 'CHANGE OF ATTITUDE'

LD051003 Milan L'UNITA in Italian 1 Dec 79 p 18 LD

["P.F." dispatch: "Talks in Paris Yesterday with Iranian 'Mission'"]

[Text] Paris--Future relations between the eastern--and more specifically the oil-producing Islamic--countries and the Western countries, and Europe in particular, will depend on the latter's attitude with regard to the present Tehran-Washington crisis. This was stated yesterday by Mohammad Ali Hadi during a press conference in Paris, where he has been for 2 days as leader of an Iranian Revolution Council delegation. The delegation, which also includes Ayatollah Hadi Modaressi and Mohammad Saleh, has had contacts at the Quai D'orsay and a conversation with French Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Bruno de Leusse, which Ali Hadi described as "very satisfactory." "We," the Iranian leader said, "are asking the European peoples, and the French in particular, not to play into the hands of U.S. propaganda..." to avoid a "break between East and West." The solution of the problem, according to Ali Hadi, is in President Carter's hands; if the United States does not change its attitude "it will, first, be endangering world peace" and, second, "will find itself confronted by 1 billion Muslims" and all the other oppressed peoples.

Next Ali Hadi delivered a harsh indictment of U.S. conduct in Iran. "It has," he said, "pursued an interventionist policy for years, first imposing the shah and then sabotaging and combating the Iranian Revolution." "After the revolution," Hadi added, "the United States organized a 50-man committee, including members of Congress, CIA agents and Pentagon and State Department officials, to study Iranian affairs; but its main task is to combat the Iranian Revolution with the complicity of the U.S. Embassy in Tehran."

Last, the Iranian representative stated that the result of the shah's possible refuge in Egypt (As-Sadat renewed his invitation yesterday) would mean "an acceleration of the revolution in Egypt."

The Iranian Revolution Council delegation, which before visiting Paris had contacts with the Tunisian, Algerian and Libyan Governments, will probably leave for Syria and Lebanon today.

EMBASSY AFFAIR REPORTEDLY LINKED TO REFERENDUM

TA021713 London BBC World Service in English 1609 GMT 2 Dec 79 TA

[Text] As the 50 Americans in Tehran begin their fifth week as hostages, the Iranian people are voting on a new constitution which enshrines sweeping powers for the religious leader Ayatollah Khomeyni. Frank Father, a writer and broadcaster on world affairs, sees links between the events in the American Embassy and the referendum.

[Begin Father recording] For the ayatollah it is a happy coincidence that the referendum is being held at a time when passions have been inflamed by the affair of the hostages, and religious fervor has been intensified by the Shi'a festival for martyred heroes of the past. Favored by such a coincidence of events, the ayatollah can expect to receive an overwhelming vote for a constitution which will turn Iran into a theocratic state and install as leader a priest who is, in the language of this almost medieval document, just, pious, informed, brave, enterprising and respected as undisputed leader.

Even so, everything has not gone smoothly. Many Iranians have misgivings. The Iranian Bar Association has criticized the sweeping powers in the constitution, as have leaders of minority groups. But more significantly, Iran's second most important religious leader, the Ayatollah Shari'at Madari, has said that he fears the country could be slipping into another dictatorship.

In the event, the question being settled by the referendum is the extent of Khomeyni's present popularity. In the March referendum on the promise of an Islamic Republic he received close to 90 percent of the votes. Since then there have been suggestions that his popularity has slipped, as economic troubles have appeared and the high expectations of the revolution have been disappointed. That is until young Iranians invaded the American Embassy and seized the hostages. In the 4 weeks since, the ayatollah has orchestrated a national outpouring of anti-Americanism, from motives which on the surface appear all too obvious. But there is a suspicion, or hope perhaps, that he may be biding his time until emotions subside.

Those self-styled students, mostly in their teens and early twenties, have shown little evidence of sharing the ayatollah's religious dedication; and many of them treat the ayatollah's envoys with open contempt. Manifestly at the start of the embassy occupation they had no clear purpose other than the emotional relief to be gained from humiliating the United States. And now, after a month, it is evident that they do not really know what to do next. Hostagetaking is self-defeating unless the ransom terms demanded are realistic. In this instance President Carter, Congress and the American people have remained adamant. The hostages cannot be bargained for with the person of the ailing shah.

In New York at the Saturday session of the UN Security Council, speaker after speaker condemned the violations of international law perpetrated by the students and condoned by the ayatollah. Against this background the students continue to repeat their threat to stage a trial of the hostages.

In a fit of madness and desperation they might just do that. But what then? Would the ayatollah and his Islamic Revolution Council let the students [as heard] go? When the referendum is out of the way the ayatollah will have to make up his mind about the direction Iran is to take. He might wish to withdraw his people from the tainted world of the 20th century; but that is strictly not possible for any length of time. He and his colleagues know enough of the everyday world to recognize this while resisting the implications.

Living in the modern world means sharing in some degree in Western culture and Western values, which for better or worse, like it or not, have, through the spurt of Western technology, become part of an emerging world culture. Most countries and their leaders, grudgingly or otherwise, accept this. And accepting it, they play the game according to the rules.

It may be hoped that having got his constitution, which in formal terms enshrines human rights, the ayatollah will feel able to face the fact that civilized governments do not permit self-styled students to dishonor their country by making hostages of defenseless men and women.

COUNCIL OF EXPERTS MEMBER VIEWS SITUATION, SHAH ISSUE

LD051101 London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 3 Dec 79 pp 1-2 LD

[Hasan Luqays Tehran interview with Hasan Ayat, member of the Iranian Council of Experts and of the political bureau of the Islamic Republican Party--date not given]

[Excerpts] Tehran--An Iranian leader close to Ayatollah Khomeyni has stated that Mehdi Bazargan was chosen for the Iranian premiership as an interim phase and his downfall was expected. He expressed his conviction that Ayatollah Mohammad Beheshti will be elected president of the republic.

Dr Hasan Ayat, member of the Council of Experts and of the ruling Islamic Republican Party Political Bureau, made this statement in a special interview with ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in which he dealt with the Bazargan government, the Kurdish problem, the Islamic constitution and the presidential elections.

The interview accurately depicts the views of the supporters close to Khomeyni and their present and future aspirations--a matter which perhaps will make it easier to understand the crisis of the U.S. Embassy in Tehran.

I asked Ayat about the reasons which brought about the downfall of the Bazargan government and whether its downfall is related to Western and Iranian press reports about his meeting with President Carter's National Security Affairs Adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski and to Bazargan's adoption of a liberal line independent of the revolutionary line of whether there were other purely domestic reasons.

Dr Ayat said: This view is almost correct. Bazargan and the group cooperating with him were not in agreement with the Islamic Revolution led by Imam Khomeyni from the beginning because they believed in conservative, not radical, political action. They were thinking of improving the situation while preserving the monarchical system, but when the revolution triumphed they tried to leap on the bandwagon.

Because of the delicate circumstances at the time some of us saw that this group should be put in power in the hope that it would change its method and go along with the revolutionary march. Regrettably, however, this did not happen and Bazargan's irresolute methods caused many problems for the revolution. The Kordestan problem is one of the product of his hesitant method--the same weak method of President Carter.

[Question] What is your assessment of the political forces existing in the Iranian arena during the present phase?

Dr Ayat replied: The political forces existing at present are: The remnants of the former regime such as SAVAK and similar machines, the forces which pretend to be Marxists but in fact are followers of the United States and have been able to deceive some youths who actually believe in Marxism. The third force is a group of opportunists who were in harmony with the shah's regime.

These three forces, however, are united and cooperate with each other. They are present in both parties to the conflict. Some of them pretend to go along with the revolutionary process while others stand in the ranks which are openly hostile to it. Examples of agreement among these forces can be observed in Kordestan, Khuzestan and other parts of the country.

These hostile forces are trying to crush the revolution in two ways: Either by resisting and crushing it or by pretending to go along with it in order to take control of things and then gradually begin deflecting the course of the revolution. These two plans are being applied at present but I believe that the revolution will triumph against these plans in the near future.

Dr Ayat added: These false and deceptive symbols will fall one after the other as some symbols did at the beginning. So far we see that irresoluteness and indecision will not affect the revolution's triumph but will only impede its progress and cause losses.

Asked to name these forces, Dr Ayat said: Those characterized as Marxists are the people's fedayeen and their like; the front cooperating with U.S. imperialism is the National Democratic Front led by Hasan Daftari and the third group is the Iranian National Front which belongs to Karim Sanjabi.

Asked who he would vote for if the presidential campaign was to be confined to two candidates--Ayatollah Dr Mohammad Beheshti and Abolhasan Bani Sadar--Dr Ayat said: I would vote for Beheshti. He added that if the battle was confined to those two, Dr Beheshti would certainly win.

Asked his opinion on the U.S. Embassy crisis and how would it end, Dr Ayat said: I approve of releasing the blacks and the women because this is in the interest of the revolution. As for the fate of the remaining hostages and the crisis with the United States, I believe that a solution can be achieved by getting the shah from the United States through the use of the right and suitable means in the conflict. As to when this will happen, this depends on the means of application. He added: In fact, the shah is considered more criminal than the war criminals who were put on trial after World War II. The world and the United States must be persuaded to hand him over for trial because I do not believe that the United States has any interest in not handing him over.

AFGHANISTAN

AMIN TELLS MINISTERS TO TOLERATE CRITICISM

LD032015 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 3 Dec 79 LD

[Text] Hafizollah Amin, People's Democratic Republic of Afghanistan [PDPA] Central Committee general secretary, chairman of the Revolutionary Council and prime minister, yesterday chaired a meeting of the Council of Ministers at the People's House from 1700 to 2130.

Comrade Amin drew the ministers' attention to the extension and strengthening of the PDPA and said: As the strengthening of the party plays an important part in the progress of the current affairs of the government and the social well-being and happiness of the country, members of the government must in this respect pay serious attention to it.

Comrade Amin added: Members of the government should extend the spirit of criticism and self-criticism, and in this respect should also persuade other colleagues and friends to tolerate their critics. The chairman of the Revolutionary Council said: All the members of the Council of Ministers, in increasing the level of industrial production, should pay particular attention and should also draw the attention of other officials and colleagues to this revolutionary principle.

Comrade Amin, regarding the closer contact with the people, said: The closer the contact the Council of Ministers establishes with the people, the more they will solve the problems of the people, which is the best way of solving misunderstanding between the government and the people. Therefore, all ministers must pay attention and in establishing closer contact with the people they must spare no efforts and must not allow a distance to be created between the people and those who are responsible for governing their affairs.

In yesterday's Council of Ministers meeting, the Council for Construction Affairs, under the chairmanship of the minister of public works, together with the membership of ministers of water and power, planning affairs, mines and industries, and interior, was formed.

Similarly, the Cultural Council, under the chairmanship of the minister of higher and professional education with the membership of the ministers of: Justice, transport and tourism, training and education, culture and information, was formed.

Afterwards the Council of Ministers discussed and investigated a number of proposals by the Ministry of Justice on a number of laws and regulations and approved the following:

1. Appendix No 1 of the law on taxes;
2. Rectifying Section 2 of the military regulations;
3. Regulations governing debt payment; and
4. The appointments and duties of the ministries' consultative commissions.

According to the proposal of the Ministry of Finance, the Council of Ministers decided that the salary of those pensioners whose annual salary is less than 40,000 afghanis should be paid once a year, while those whose annual pension is more than 40,000 afghanis should be paid monthly as from next year.

The Council of Ministers reports these appointments: In the Ministry of Commerce: Dr Najibollah Entezam, director of procurement and provisions. In the Ministry of Mines and Industries: Mohammad Sader, director of oil and gas research; 'Abdol Karim, deputy director of oil and gas research. In the Ministry of Higher and Professional Education: Junior lecturer Shair Mohammad Rosta'i, director external and cultural affairs.

WALI CHAIRS 3 DEC ECONOMIC COUNCIL SESSION

LD042224 Kabul in English to Europe 1900 GMT 4 Dec 79 LD

[Text] The Economic Council met yesterday under the chairmanship of Dr Shah Wali, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs. All-sided discussions were held, and specifically on the affairs of the construction units of the Ministry of Public Works.

BANGLADESH

BORDER DISPUTE WITH INDIA CONTINUES

Firing on 3 December

BK040448 Dacca Domestic Service in English 0145 GMT 4 Dec 79 BK

[Text] Fresh firing broke out between the Bangladesh Rifles [BDR] and the Indian Border Security Force [BSF] after a day's break yesterday when the Indians tried to construct bunkers in the Muharichar area in Noakhali district.

According to official sources in Dacca the BSF crossed into Bangladesh territory [words indistinct] to construct bunkers yesterday morning but had to run away in the face of BDR firing. The Indians again infiltrated into Bangladesh territory last night for the same purpose and later were compelled to leave the area after exchanging fire with the Bangladesh Rifles.

There has been no casualty on the Bangladesh side, the sources added.

High Level Meeting

BK031706 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1445 GMT 3 Dec 79 BK

[Text] The Bangladesh high commissioner called on the foreign minister on 3 December. Both reviewed the recent developments and bilateral relations. The foreign minister emphasised the importance of resolving as early as possible the issue connected with the Morvi River and suggested that firing by Bangladesh should stop and that both governments should give full support to the efforts of the JRC [Joint Rivers Commission] and the joint survey team in completing their work in this region.

Immediate Talks Proposed

BK041724 Dacca Domestic Service in English 1705 GMT 4 Dec 79 BK

[Text] According to BSS [Bangladesh Sangbad Sangsatha], Bangladesh has proposed to India for immediate holding of a joint meeting of heads of Border Security Forces of the two countries or of the higher level for stopping firing over Muhari char in Noakhali district. According to the news agency, Bangladesh has suggested that the joint meeting could be held immediately between the Bangladesh Rifles and the Indian Border Security Forces chiefs for prevention of exchange of firing and defusing of tension along the border.

The exchange of firing between the border forces of the two countries over the possession of Muhari char began early last month and has been continuing since then almost every day.

Meanwhile, official sources in Dacca said today that Muhari char in part and parcel of Bangladesh according to the existing Chakla-Roshanabad map of 1892, which was confirmed in 1957 by the directors of land records and surveyors of erstwhile East Pakistan and West Bengal. This status of the area, they said, could not be disturbed or altered till the implementation of the 1974 India-Bangladesh boundary agreement, which still awaits ratification by India. The sources said the 1974 border agreement between the two countries was a package deal under which Bangladesh would get some Indian territory and vice versa. They said India could not, however, take advantage of the agreement only in respect of Muhari char unless it ratifies the treaty and implements the other provisions thereof.

HIGH COURT ACTS ON CHALLENGE TO MUSHTAQUE CONVICTION

BK041628 Hong Kong AFP in English 1615 GMT 4 Dec 79 BK

[Excerpt] Dacca, 4 Dec (AFP)--A two-member high court bench today issued order on government to show cause within six weeks why conviction and sentence of former President Khandokar Mushtaque Ahmed should not be set aside and he should not be freed from jail.

The high court bench ruling came following admission of a writ petition challenging conviction of 60-year-old former president by a special martial law court in Dacca in January 1977.

INDIA

CHARAN SINGH OPENS ATOMIC ENERGY CONFERENCE

BK041007 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 0906 GMT 4 Dec 79 BK

[Text] Opening the 23d session of the International Atomic Energy Agency's [IAEA] general conference in New Delhi on 4 December Prime Minister Charan Singh proposed that the IAEA consider imposing safeguards on noncivilian nuclear establishments and prepare a long-term plan to help developing countries utilise benefits of nuclear energy for national development, reports PTI.

He suggested that a treaty should be formulated to prohibit use in war of nuclear weapons "a crime against humanity" as a precursor to nuclear disarmament.

Pointing out that obstacles were being put in the name of nonproliferation to prevent developing countries from evolving indigenous facilities for peaceful use of atomic energy he added there were even moves towards institutional measures at limiting certain nuclear fuel cycle activities to a few so-called safe and secure locations.

He complained that the technical assistance being provided by IAEA was being subjected to restrictive and preferential preconditions and demanded that it reverse this trend.

Reminding the conference that the world today was at the crossroads in the history of development of atomic energy, the prime minister said there was on the one hand an unprecedented threat of self-extinction on account of the arms race and on the other, an increasing need to develop nuclear power to meet the energy crisis.

The prime minister reiterated India's belief in the concept of genuine and comprehensive nonproliferation and its view that nonproliferation measures to be truly effective must be applied uniformly and universally to all nuclear activities in all states. In practice he said "we find that while various measures have been initiated to check the possible spread of nuclear weapons we are yet to witness a single significant step to even slow down let alone stop or reverse the far more dangerous and absolutely irrational nuclear arms race that it actually going on. I am convinced that we cannot expect any progress in one without corresponding progress in the other."

It was even more distressing that many who preached the virtue of horizontal nonproliferation claim in the same breath their right based on the theory of nuclear deterrence not only to possess but even to use nuclear weapons to safeguard national security. In the name of nonproliferation smaller nations were forced to accept restraints and restrictions, none of which the nuclear weapons powers are prepared to accept for themselves.

Noting that India had been in the field of nuclear energy for over three decades, he said Indian experience would vindicate that developing countries need not follow the path traversed by advanced countries for application of science to society. They could jump certain stages of technological development.

The prime minister noted that direct benefits of the Indian atomic energy programme were more profound and of immense significance. The contribution made by Indian programme had helped the generation of what he called a national scientific culture.

Earlier H.N. Sethna, chairman of Indian Atomic Energy Commission, was elected president of conference.

IAEA Director Addresses Conference

BK050926 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 0900 GMT 5 Dec 79 BK

[Text] Doctor Sigvard Eklund, director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency, justified in an indirect way India's claim for uninterrupted fuel for the Tarapur atomic plant from the U.S., reports PTI [PRESS TRUST OF INDIA].

Addressing the 23d general conference of IAEA in New Delhi on December 4 Doctor Eklund said "When a country, particularly a developing country, invests resources of the order of a billion dollars in a nuclear power plant and is prepared to accept NPT or comparable safeguards, it was legitimate for it to expect uninterrupted supply of fuel during the lifetime of the plant."

Doctor Eklund also made an indirect reference to Pakistan's effort to enrich uranium. He said, "We cannot disguise our concern about the reports of the spread of unsafeguarded enrichment technology."

President Jimmy Carter in a message to the IAEA conference, called for "urgent efforts" to develop nuclear energy to reduce dependence on "dwindling and sometimes insecure fossil fuel supplies," reports UNI [UNITED NEWS OF INDIA].

REPORTS OF NEPALESE BEING DRIVEN FROM ASSAM 'DISTORTED'

BK021026 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1000 GMT 2 Dec 79 BK

[Text] The former prime minister of Nepal and a member of the country's National Panchayat [parliament], Mr Kirti Nidhi Bista, has suggested a dialog between India and his country on the issue of Indian citizens of Nepalese origin in the Indian state of Assam.

He told newsmen in Calcutta today that in the interest of friendly relations between the two countries, the matter should be settled. Mr Bista said that many Indians of Nepalese origin had been forced out of Assam.

It may be recalled that an official spokesman in New Delhi had already described reports in the Nepalese press about the alleged eviction of some people of Nepalese origin from Assam as grossly distorted. He had clarified that the problem in Assam relates mainly to immigrants from other countries who may have tried to enlist themselves as voters in the coming elections. Indian citizens of Nepalese origin had not figured in the reports coming from Assam. The Government of India has laid down strict precautions to insure that bonafide Indian citizens in the state are not harrassed in any way, he added.

PAKISTAN

PRESIDENT SPEAKS OF FUTURE LEADERSHIP, REFORMS, CENSORSHIP

BK031109 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 3 Dec 79 BK

[Text] The president, Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq, has said there are visible signs of improvement in the society as a result of the strictness of the martial law. He was talking to newsmen on his arrival in Quetta from Karachi today on a 2-day visit.

General Mohammad Ziaul Haq said it was nearing 2 months that the martial law had been engaged in weeding out corruption and other evils from the society but the results achieved so far are very encouraging. He said what is more there has been a positive response from the public. The people have not only accepted the strictness of the martial law, but have in fact, appreciated it.

Replying to a question about the revival of political activities in the country, the president said they were engaged in a very important task of achieving the four objectives as outlined by him in his speech on the 16th of October last. Unless he had fulfilled those objectives, he would not like to create any uncertainty as to the future plan.

In reply to a question, the president said his references to the future leadership meant that the leadership will emerge from the younger generation and from unconventional sources. He said, as elaborated by him earlier at different places, his references to the emergence of future leadership did not mean that he would take local bodies representatives as ministers. It was not so.

Asked to comment whether the future parliament might come out of the local bodies representatives, the president said it was not in his scheme of things for the time being.

The president was also asked about the government's plan for new labor and land reforms. He replied that the government had already planned the labor reforms, which were coming. As for the land reforms, he said they did not intend to introduce any fresh land reforms but were keen to implement the land reforms already introduced. He pointed out that the old reforms were actually a farce. These were implemented only on those whom the former regime did not like. The previous regime had left many of themselves out of the purview of the reforms with the result that these reforms were left incomplete. Now the present government wanted to implement them.

Later, the president addressed garrison and staff college officers at the staff college in Quetta. The provincial governor, Lieut Gen Rahim Uddin Khan was also present. Later this afternoon the president is presiding over a conference at the Governor's house.

Earlier in Karachi this morning, the president inaugurated the 2-day fourth Pakistan's congress of cardiology. Speaking on the occasion, he said the government is making every endeavor within the national resources to provide facilities for the treatment of cardiovascular diseases within Pakistan so that people do not have to go abroad for treatment.

Later talking to newsmen in the conference pandal [enclosure], the president said he would examine the request for exemption of import duty on laboratory equipment for doctors in all specialities. He agreed that uniformed facilities should be available to all specialities.

Replying to a question, the president said that the restriction under the censorship will be relaxed in good time. He said there is no restriction on healthy criticism of the government and it policies, but maligning and defaming people cannot be allowed. He told a questioner that the purpose of the recent amendment in section 499 of the Pakistan penal code is to protect responsible citizens from irresponsible journalists.

HAQ: ISLAM FORBIDS PROTEST THROUGH DESTRUCTIVE MEANS

BK041052 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 4 Dec 79 BK

[Text] The president, Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq, has underscored the importance of local bodies in the democratic setup and said that democracy in fact flowed from the level of union councils. Addressing local bodies councillors from Baluchistan in Quetta this morning he emphasized that if the foundation was strong they can build many stories over it. He said the local bodies councillors have to provide this foundation.

The president said democracy did not mean any particular type of government like the parliamentary or the presidential system but a means toward achieving it. There were many instances in the world where there was lack of democracy despite the existence of presidential or parliamentary form of government. He said the system of local councils form an important part of the democratic structure even in countries which are called the champions of democracy. He said that democracy which starts at the level of local councils develops and flourishes in parliaments or constituent bodies at the national and provincial levels.

Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq exhorted the local bodies councillors to serve the people with the Islamic spirit and prove equal to their expectations. He said the councillors must bear in mind that the people had elected them in the name of Islam and they must conduct themselves as true Muslims to continue to enjoy their confidence. He said they must remember that during their election, as well as during the 1977 movement, it had become crystal clear that in Pakistan the people could not compromise on Islam. Those who believed in atheism or secularism were sadly mistaken and such elements will not be tolerated by the people. Any step which was repugnant to Islam would immediately invite the wrath of the people. Pakistan is an ideological country and its solidarity and survival is directly linked with its Islamic ideology.

Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq emphasized that in Pakistan there is no room for any ism. Only nizame Islam [Islamic rule] could solve our problems. He said there were two main approaches to the future set up in the country. One body of opinion believes that elections and political parties were valid in Islam while another is totally opposed to it. He said we shall have to learn from the experience of other Muslim countries which are endeavoring to enforce nizame Islam. But this does not mean that we do not have our own ideas. He said there were people who were knowledgable and good Muslims who have given thought to this aspect.

The president exhorted the councillors to bring home to the people that Islam forbids to resort to destructive means to voice their protests over any matter. He pointed out that there were certain elements who are trying to incite the people to such a course. He said this is their own country and their own government. If they damage anything, they are actually damaging themselves and their country. He said the foremost teaching of Islam is to maintain tranquility and protect the life, property and honor of the people. In this context he said that the burning of libraries, whether they belong to Pakistan or to any other country, was in fact a great disservice to the nation. He said there were other more effective means of giving vent to their feelings than resorting to subversive activities.

Later in the afternoon the president visited the deaf and dumb school, the under construction Bolan Medical College and the government dairy farm. Earlier he addressed the members of the Baluchistan chambers of commerce and industry at the governor's house.

Further Comments

BK051644 Karachi Domestic Service in Urou 1500 GMT 4 Dec 79 BK

[Excerpts] Talking to newsmen at Quetta airport prior to his departure for Islamabad this afternoon, the president said that the advisor on foreign affairs, Mr Agha Shahi will visit Kabul by the middle of this month, and that Afghanistan had been informed on this.

Replying to a question on the crisis between Iran and the United States, he said that we are all concerned about this. He said that he had told the United States that nothing would be gained by the use of force. He expressed the hope that a peaceful and satisfactory solution to the issue will be reached.

Replying to a question regarding the U.S. decision to recall nonessential personnel from about 11 Muslim countries, he said that he was told that the United States took this step as a precautionary measure.

SRI LANKA

GOVERNMENT PETITION TO OPEC DECRIES PRICE INCREASE

BK031730 Hong Kong AFP in English 0526 GMT 3 Dec 79 BK

[By Dalton de Silva]

[Text] Colombo, 3 Dec (AFP)--Sri Lanka, severely affected by rising oil prices, is to seek redress in an unusual way. The government of President J.R. Jayewardene has drawn up a petition to be sent to the secretary general and members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) signed by three million people.

The petition sets out the difficulties experienced by Sri Lanka as a result of the increase in oil prices and urges OPEC to grant concessionary terms for its vital petroleum supplies or to provide aid that will enable the country to find alternative sources of energy.

President Jayewardene, Prime Minister Ranasinghe Premadasa, cabinet ministers and members of Parliament of the ruling United National Party (UNP) were the first to sign the petition which has been drawn up in four languages--English, Arabic, Sinhala (the official language) and Tamil (the language of the minority).

The members of Parliament of the largest opposition party in Parliament, the minority Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF), have also signed the document.

Parliamentarians of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) of former prime minister, Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike, have, however, refused to place their signatures to it. The SLFP said in a statement the collection of signatures for the petition was another attempt by the government to hoodwink the people and conceal the real causes for the sufferings of the masses in the country.

Meanwhile, the government has launched a massive country-wide campaign to collect signatures for the petition. Thirty thousand copies of the petition churned out by the government's press have been distributed to all parts of the country through government members of Parliament and provincial government officials. Copies have also been sent to schools where students in higher grades will place their signatures.

Once the necessary signatures are collected, the petition will be taken to OPEC countries, particularly those in the Middle East, by a special delegation.

The petition states that the sudden and sharp increases in the price of crude oil and petroleum products have seriously impeded Sri Lanka's economic and social progress. Petroleum products provide over 35 percent of the country's energy requirements and are estimated to cost the government 25.85 percent of its foreign exchange earnings in 1979. It says the almost trebling of the price of kerosene oil has caused tremendous hardship to the rural and urban population of the country since 85 per cent of the kerosene is used for domestic lighting and cooking purposes.

The oil price hike has also considerably increased the cost of good transport resulting in an escalation of the prices of essential commodities such as rice, flour, vegetables, meat and fish. "We need hardly stress the frequent increases in the cost of living due to the rise in the price of oil", the petition says.

The document points out that in 1978 Sri Lanka had to pay U.S. dollars 154 million on petroleum imports which reflects an increase of 1500 per cent compared with the prices paid for imports in 1971. "This places an intolerable burden on our country", it says. The petition states that "in the context of the acute oil crisis we are taking positive steps to harness the maximum potential of our hydro-power resources and also to develop and conserve the country's fuel wood resources". "High priority is accorded to oil and natural gas exploration and the prospecting of nuclear energy sources", it says. Other strategies include the utilisation of wind, solar, bio-gas and integrated energy systems.

A national energy committee has been appointed to advise the government on the formulation and implementation of an energy policy, the document says.

The petition concludes by saying: "Ours is but a little island. We have a united, dedicated and hardworking people. We ask you to help us and join us in giving our people in our country a better tomorrow."